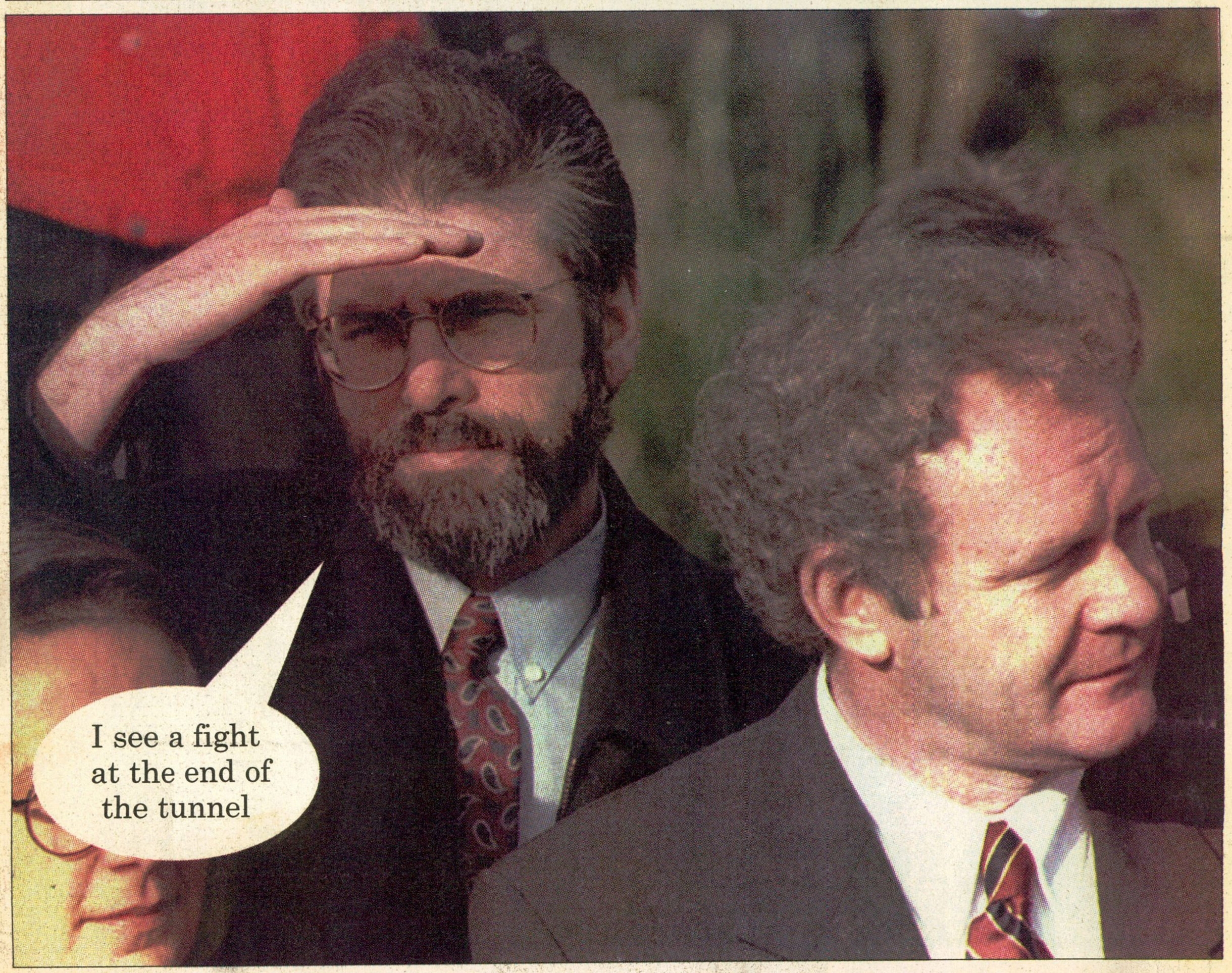
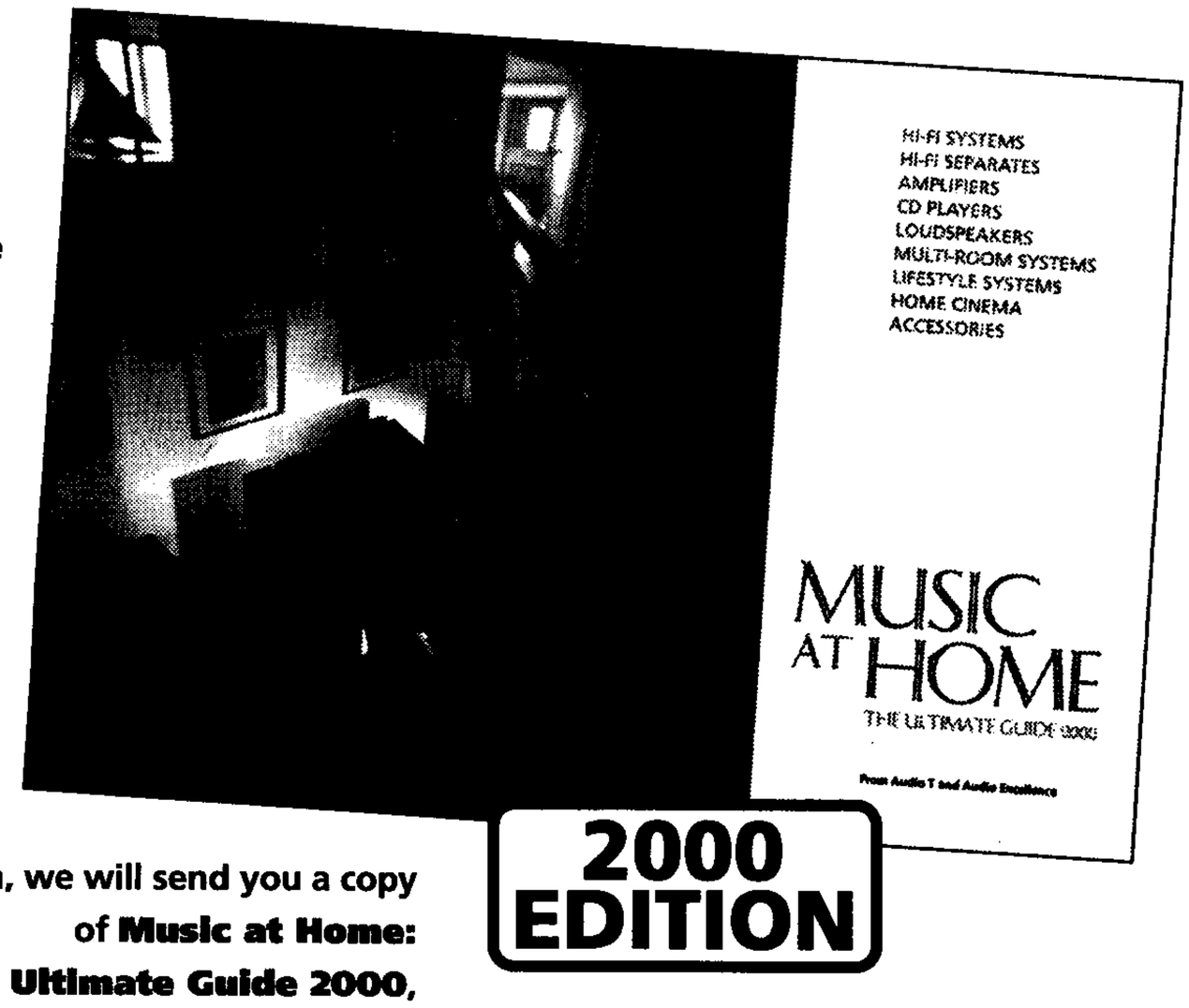
No. 995
Friday
11 Feb. 2000
£1.20

PRIVATE EYE

NEW PEACE HOPE



New Labour Old Sounds



2000 EDITION

Listen beyond the superficial. Appreciate the substance. Hear music as it was meant to be.

Insist upon the truth.
☎ FREEPHONE 0500 101501
or complete and return the coupon below today.

By return, we will send you a copy of Music at Home: The Ultimate Guide 2000, telling you all you need to know about the very best in audio and home entertainment equipment,

In plain English, find out where to begin, what to choose, and then select the hi-fi or home cinema system that's right for you.

Because, even if you cannot tell the difference between a tweeter and Tweetie Pie, the options soon become obvious.

Should you elect to make a decision, your budget commitment will be less than you think.

And, needless to say, we promise never to spin you a line.

Of course, should you prefer, you could visit our website: www.musicathome.co.uk or call in to any one of the stores listed here.

Please send me my FREE copy of MUSIC AT HOME: The Ultimate Guide (UK only)

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

.....

.....

POST CODE .....

Music at Home 2000 PE01, Freepost LV1747, Abingdon, OX14 4YQ

WARNING:
THIS GUIDE TELLS IT LIKE IT IS - AND NOT AS OTHERS WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE

audio EXCELLENCE

www.audio-excellence.co.uk

BRISTOL
65 Park Street
0117 926 4975

CARDIFF
134/136 Crwys Road
029 2022 8565

CHESTER
88/90 Boughton
01244 345576

EXETER
156 Sidwell Street
01392 491194

GLOUCESTER
58 Bristol Road
01452 300046

PRESTON
131 Friargate
01772 253057

SWANSEA
9 High Street
01792 474608

WORCESTER
Independence House
The Trinity
01905 619059

audio T

www.audio-t.co.uk

BASINGSTOKE
4 Feathers Lane
01256 324311

BRENTWOOD
30 Crown Street
01277 264730

CAMBERLEY
173-175 London Road
01276 685597

CHELTENHAM
40/42 Albion Street
01242 583960

ENFIELD
159a Chase Side
020 8367 3132

EPSOM
15 Upper High Street
01372 748888

HIGH WYCOMBE
30-32 Castle Street
01494 558585

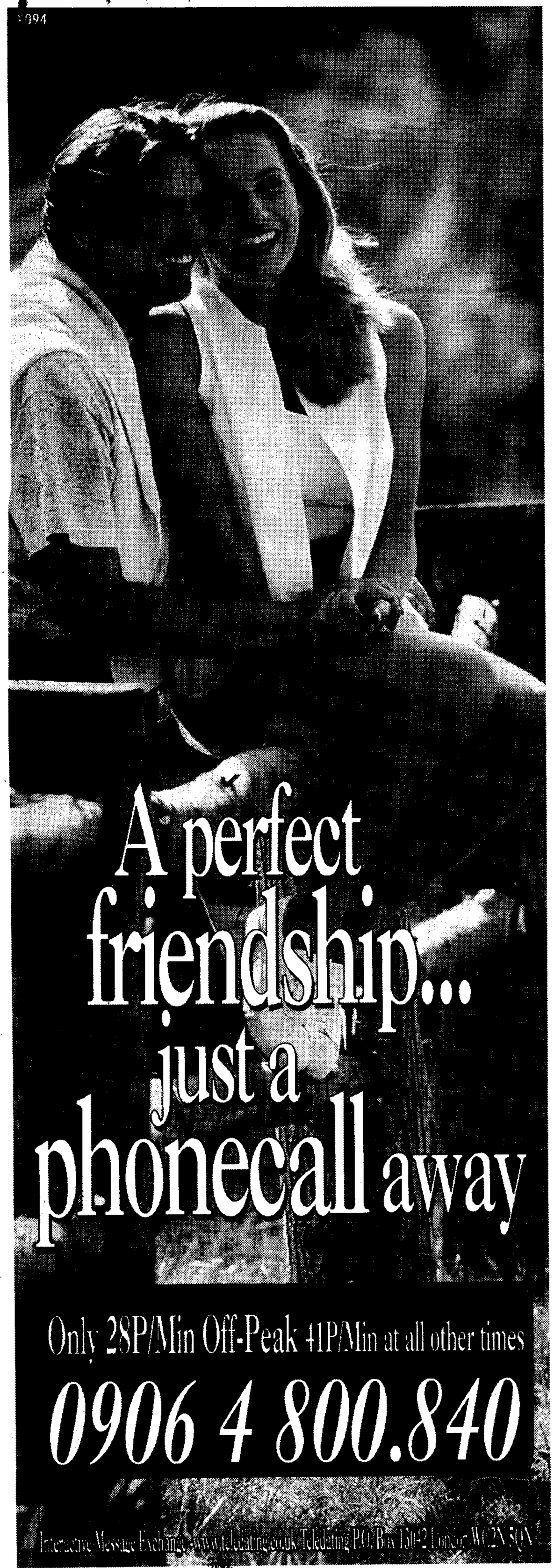
LONDON:
WEST HAMPSTEAD
190 West End Lane
020 7794 7848

OXFORD
19 Old High Street
Headington
01865 765961

READING
4 Queens Walk
Broad Street Mall
0118 958 5463

SOUTHAMPTON
2-12 Hursley Road
Chandlers Ford
023 8025 2827

SWINDON
60 Fleet Street
01793 538222



The Open University

Two-year diplomas.

- **Sharpen your career skills**
- **Make more of your personal interests**

You can get a qualification from one of Britain's top universities in just two years without the need to give up work or family commitments.

Choose from 30 OU diplomas in such areas as: *Arts, Computing, English Language, Environment, Geography, Health and Social Welfare, Information Technology, Management, Mathematics, Modern Languages, Music, Psychology, Science, Social Sciences.*

We'll give you all the support you need. We've developed our own unique method of study - OU supported open learning - to help you succeed. We'll give you a personal tutor for individual help and advice - a specialist in the subject you're studying. You'll get the chance to meet your fellow students at tutorials and, on some programmes, the opportunity to get together at a residential school. And we'll supply you with learning resources of the highest standard - on some courses this is delivered on CD ROM or computer software. The OU leads the world in its use of new technology for learning. It's real value for money and you can pay by instalments.

Did you know?

- **The OU is in the top 15%* of all UK universities for teaching quality**
- **25% of all British MBAs† come from the OU**
- **Over 30,000 employers have sponsored their staff on OU courses**
- **80,000 OU students are online from home**
- **There are 9 month courses and new diplomas as well as degrees**

†AMBA Accredited

**Source: Daily Telegraph. Based on percentage of academic departments rated 'excellent' or scoring at least 22 points out of 24 by the Higher Education Funding Council.*

Send for your free prospectus now.

To: The OU Call Centre, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA

☐ Please send me a copy of the *Undergraduate Courses* and *Undergraduate Qualifications* prospectuses

☐ Please send me the postgraduate prospectus

☐ Tick here if you have contacted the OU in the past

Title .....Initials .....Surname.....

Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Tel.....Date of Birth...../...../19 .....

☎ **OU Hotline (24 hours) 0870 9000 301**

Website: www.open.ac.uk/brochure/ UGAABM

THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE OU EXPERIENCE

For written details write to First Direct, Freepost, Leeds LS98 2RF. We reserve the right to decline to open an account for you. To maintain a quality service, calls may be monitored and/or recorded. Applicants must be 18 or over. Credit facilities are subject to status. All UK customer calls charged at local rate. First Direct is a division of HSBC Bank plc.

join a bank with a high lycra content

If you're the kind of person who is totally flummoxed by questions like "jacket or fries, peas or beans?" it's possible that First Direct might not be for you. Because with us you have the choice: banking by PC, phone or mobile. This means your banking can fit around you as snugly as a well chosen item of leisurewear with a high lycra content.

24 hours, however you look at it

We also give you total flexibility about when you do it and great service too. We're open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We never close. (Philosophers amongst you might prefer to say we're always open). Which means you'll never have to endure another lunchtime in the bank queue, staring at the back of the person in front.

enjoy free banking too

And if that's not enough to bring on a touch of vertigo, we offer you free banking. Which means direct debits, standing orders, statements and withdrawals at over 6,500 specified cash machines - including those of HSBC Bank and NatWest are all free. You also get an automatic £250 fee free overdraft.

decision time a or b?

At this point you're either thinking: a) sounds great, where do I sign, or b) sounds great, where's the catch? Those of you in group a) simply call us free, visit our website or complete the coupon below. The doubting Thomas's in b) will be pleased to know that joining First Direct is as easy as falling off a log. Please read on.

got 30 minutes?

You probably think you've spotted the catch. All those piles of letters you'll have to write to transfer all your direct debits and standing orders. Right? Wrong! It should take no more than 30 minutes of your time. Complete an application form over the phone or at our website. Sign and return it along with the account transfer authority we'll send to you, and we'll do the rest.

what's next...do it now

0800 24 24 24

www.firstdirect.co.uk

please quote ref HP005

or post to: First Direct, FREEPOST, Leeds LS98 2RF

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Surname

Forename(s)

UK Address

HP006

Postcode

Telephone No

first direct

Member of the HSBC Group

choice

you can bank by PC, phone or mobile - which is only a problem for the chronically indecisive

Gnome

A Statement

AMIDST the rumour and speculation that has surrounded my share dealings over the past week it has been repeatedly suggested that I bought stocks in one particular company having first read a favourable story about it in my own newspaper.

This is an appalling slur on my reputation as an editor and I cannot let it go unanswered. The idea that I would actually read the rubbish that I print in my newspaper is highly offensive. And, of course, it is a lie. I have far better things to do with my time than sit around reading the sort of tabloid drivel that fills the pages of the Moron day in and day out. Anyone who suggests otherwise knows nothing about the way real journalism works.

E. Pughe-Strobes
Editor, The Moron
Maxwell House
E.C. Money

"How dare they put a gun to our heads!"

● ***Pinochet: The Last Straw; how Geoffrey really bought the New (Labour) Statesman, News 6***

● ***Hackwatch on Shipman, Hyde and Sic 11***

● ***Useless judges, awful planes, dodgy vaccines... it's all In The Back 26, 27, 28***

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

£17 per annum. Europe and Eire £25.
Airmail — rest of world £33.
Cheques/POs to Private Eye. Access/Visa.

PRIVATE EYE SUBSCRIPTIONS
Mortimer House, 230-236 Lavender Hill, London SW11 1LE
Tel: 0171-228 0588. Fax: 0171-924 3719.
Email: eyesubs@cix.co.uk

EDITORIAL
6 Carlisle Street, London W1V 5RG.
Tel: 0171-437 4017. Fax: 0171-437 0705.
Email: strobes@private-eye.co.uk
http://www.private-eye.co.uk

ADVERTISING
Tel: 0171-839 6306

ABC
CONSUMER PRESS

101 Uses For A Dome

Giant Merchandising Opportunity

In the City

by the *original* Slicker

DID Downing Street order the Department of Timidity & Inaction (DTI) in to the *Daily Moron* share dealing scandal? That is certainly the view of some of those close to the City spivs who have grown fat on the Moron's self-styled City Slickers' near two-year diet of share tips.

The revelation that Labour-supporting editor Piers "Moron" Morgan had lined his pockets following a tip from the dubious duo of Anil Bhoyrul and James Hipwell would certainly have got the attention of former *Moron* political hack turned Blair spin doctor Alastair Campbell.

This could help explain the unusual alacrity with which the DTI moved in rather than waiting for the Stock Exchange to report.

A similar order went out under Margaret Thatcher to "get the handcuffs on" the Guinness share rampers ahead of the 1987 election, resulting in the speedy arrests of Ernest Saunders and friends to avoid allegations that the Tories were soft on City crime. But then the word is also that for several months the Stock Exchange has been closely monitoring the *Moron* situation amid growing concern that it was a "Pump 'n' Dump" operation run for the benefit of some of the City's usual suspects who, like Morgan and others from the *Moron*'s inner circle, only more so, were well placed to benefit from the loadsamoney selections.

£ £ £

The *Moron* has become the paper of choice of the City spiv. "It's a must read now. They get all the leaks," says a broker who would know.

Many of the shares recommended by Bhoyrul and Hipwell are small, highly speculative penny stocks where big gains can be made on relatively small price movements or from big price jumps exaggerated by limited markets. Others are companies linked to individuals, regularly plugged in the *Moron* column, who are known as major market players.

The speed with which Morgan's purchase of Viglen Technology shares last month was picked up suggests the surveillance radar was monitoring dealings ahead of the *Moron* share tips. How otherwise to explain the well informed leak to the *Daily Telegraph* within two weeks of the deal?

Moron tips feed the ready-to-turn-on tap of those waiting to sell. It used to be said of another media friendly share picker "Changi Jim" Slater that as soon as the word "Jim's in" went round, Slater was in reality waiting to get out by selling to the mugs who then came piling in —supposedly after him — allowing his exit through the revolving door. Slater's successors of today are regularly puffed in the *Moron* column.

While examining the personal share dealings of Morgan and his tipsters the Stock Exchange and the DTI will also be looking at those who provided the tips. For that's where the real money has been made. They will find some familiar faces.

Take for example last week's tip for Orchard Furniture, a cash "shell" waiting for a deal. As *Moron* readers were told: "The calibre of people involved make us fans." These include an unmentioned Deric "White Rat" Homes from brokers Fiske, a veteran of many a "hot stock".

They will also find regular references to the small ring of City promoters whose incestuous share deals increasingly raise eyebrows.

While editor "Moron" may have been cleared by the *Mirror* internal inquiry – isn't that the purpose of internal inquiries? — he may find the DTI somewhat more probing. It and the Stock Exchange may want answers to questions like:

1. How often has he invested £20,000?

2. Why did he invest on a day when his pals Bhoyrul and Hipwell were once again preparing to boost Viglen and fellow columnist Alan Sugar?

3. Why had he not bought after previous *Moron* tips for Viglen — one of its shares for the year?

4. Were the shares — now sold — to be registered in his own name?

5. Had he ever discussed Viglen with his pals or Sugar and if so when?

6. Does he own or has he ever owned any other shares tipped by his newspaper?

7. Why, when the *Moron* tipped Viglen and the price doubled the day after he bought, did Morgan not recognise the problem and immediately sell and donate the profits to charity — as he belatedly has done with the £10,000 plus he made?

8. Had he ever asked Bhoyrul and Hipwell for details of their share dealings?

9. Does the *Daily Moron* have any rules preventing journalists or executives from dealing on information obtained by the newspaper?

10. How much does he know and when does he know about the tips for Viglen and other shares — Morgan claims he only discovered about the tip for Viglen hours after he bought?

£ £ £

Morgan may find himself as embarrassed as his target Lord Archer in answering some of these questions.

The problems for Bhoyrul and Hipwell may be more terminal as they would appear at the very least to have trampled on the press complaints commission (PCC) rules by constantly tipping shares in which they had investments, often at the wrong price: Belgo — a poor performer from the prolific stable of their "pal" Luke Johnson; and Dialog Corporation — the unimpressive brainchild of another "pal", Dan Wagner.

Since Bhoyrul bought at least 10,000 Belgo at 11p in May 1998 the shares have failed to perform. So much for his stock picking! But it is not without endless bids to give the shares the kiss of life via regular *Moron* plugs.

Belgo was one of the tips for 1999 at 9p. "We had to get this one in, having tipped it so many times before. We also have great faith in Johnson." The shares are firmly anchored at 5p.

"If the Slickers had a few quid to spare after Christmas these are the ten companies we would invest in," trumpeted the *Moron* in December 1998. At no time was it ever revealed that Bhoyrul was already a shareholder and sitting on a loss. He claims to have "forgotten" about the shares and to have sold half his holding (so did he own 20,000?) last year, also undisclosed — after making it one of his top ten. Trying to reduce a loss is just as much an abuse as making a profit.

Similarly no disclosure of their investments in Dialog was made when the shares were regularly boosted. Bhoyrul says he has £500 still invested. Hipwell sold last year.

Wagner was hailed as "the new Bill Gates" in July 1998 as the *Moron* tipsters declared confidently: "We forecast 250p within the year." Even after a profit warning in November 1998 they still forecast "150p within six months". The shares are 136p having been 55p.

The duo also invested in another tip, Booth Industries, as reportedly did *Moron* deputy editor Tina Weaver, whose close friend is said to be something in the City. Booth was another loser.

The DTI may want to know how often the *Moron* spivs dealt in not just Belgo, Dialog and Booth but other shares they recommended to readers. It is hard to imagine they only backed losers given their sources and the market since mid-1998.

NEWS

EATING GM food is not dangerous but organic farming poses considerable risks to human health. So said leading scientist Professor John Hillman, grabbing a few controversial headlines in the process.

Prof Hillman reckoned organically grown crops could be substandard and contaminated by nasty bacteria in the manure dumped on them, so GM foods were safer. His comments came in the annual report of the Scottish Crop Research Institute, of which he is director.

Coincidentally Prof Hillman also sits on the board of the BioIndustry Association, whose aim is to "encourage and promote the biotechnology sector of the UK economy". So no conflict of interest there, then...

JUST how thorough will the department of trade investigation into the business affairs of disgraced former paymaster general Geoffrey Robinson prove to be?

Part of the answer may be provided by the inspectors' willingness (or otherwise) to examine the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the sale of the *New Statesman* magazine to Robinson shortly after Tony Blair had been elected leader of the Labour party.

The ailing magazine was subject to a "takeover bid" by Robinson, which many observers believed at the time was either motivated by supporters of Tony Blair or the shadow chancellor Gordon Brown – or both. The removal of leftwing editor Steve Platt was immediately followed by the installation of the pro-"new" Labour Ian Hargreaves, who set about dismissing the old regime with gusto while having his own substantial salary paid out of yet another Robinson company, Stenbell.

At the time the Blairites regarded the *NS* – then under the control of hands-off proprietor Phillip Jeffrey – as "unhelpful" and hopelessly off message. Robinson had already emerged as a serious benefactor to a number of "parallel projects" designed to reduce the influence of the trade unions and others over the Labour party. But Blair and Brown wanted a respectable vehicle for their brand of "Third Way" politics, and Robinson's intervention to secure the title could be at best be seen as fortuitous.

Except that when the offers were on the table Phillip Jeffrey had lodged an extra £247,000 offer to shareholders over that of Robinson, an offer that was not apparently put to the magazine's shareholders. Did the *New Statesman*'s trustees, who included Barking MP Margaret Hodge, "new" Labour peer Helena Kennedy and journalist Neal Ascherson act unlawfully, albeit unwittingly, by failing to present the Jeffrey offer to *New Statesman* shareholders while awarding themselves title of the magazine for £1? Did they unwittingly divest Jeffrey of the magazine and award Robinson the title?

Here are questions the inspectors, or indeed m'learned friends, might wish to ask. And if Geoffrey Robinson is found not to have colluded with the extraordinary decisions taken by the magazine's trustees, was pressure exerted by friends of the prime minister or chancellor on the trustees to swap proprietors?

And while they are at it, given Geoffrey Robinson's controversial track record, they might just ask Phillip Jeffrey if he did indeed receive a cheque in payment for the title from Robinson.

A COMPUTER cock-up at the Benefits Agency last month led to 112,000 income support claimants receiving double their weekly entitlement at a cost of £10.5m to the taxpayer.

Amazingly the agency is still reluctant to lay the blame at the door of the computer company which runs the income support payments system, describing the incident as an "internal computer processing error".

The firm responsible is of course the old *Eye* favourite EDS (see *Eyes passim ad nauseam*), whose bosses can breathe a sigh of relief as they are reminded yet again that their well-being is apparently of greater concern to the government than protecting the public purse.

JACK STRAW continues to insist he can't disclose details of the medical report on General Pinochet because of the rules of medical confidentiality. As a home office spokesman put it: "Mr Straw had appealed to lawyers acting for the general to waive his right to privacy, but that had been rejected."

How very unsporting of the general. But the idea that Straw yearned to release the report if only Pinochet would let him is not borne out by confidential correspondence obtained by the Spanish newspaper *El Pais*. In fact, it was the home secretary who offered to keep the medical results secret.

The suggestion was made on 5 November 1999 by Fenella Tyler of the home office, on behalf of Straw, to Pinochet's lawyers Kingsley Napley. "The purpose of this letter," she wrote, "is to enquire whether Senator Pinochet would be willing to submit to a medical examination... If Senator Pinochet is willing to be examined in this way I would be grateful for confirmation of that in writing as soon as possible... It should go without saying that every effort would be made by the doctors and their team, and the Home Office, to keep the report entirely confidential."

Not surprisingly Pinochet's lawyer was only too pleased to accept Straw's pre-emptive offer of secrecy. "I am grateful for your indication that the Home Office will make every effort to keep the contents of any report confidential," he replied on 11 November. "Senator Pinochet is prepared to undergo the examination on the understanding that none of its contents are disclosed to anybody other than the Home Office and ourselves."

And so it came to pass. In January, when Straw announced his decision to free Pinochet, he added regretfully that the report on the general's health could not be made public because of the demands of the patient's lawyers. But as *El Pais* points out: "The letters exchanged between the Home Office and Pinochet's lawyers show clearly that this was not the case."

El Pais's story, written by Ernesto Ekaizer, was splashed across two pages of its issue of 30 January. Curiously, however, not one English newspaper has followed it up. Why? Surely this cannot be because Fleet Street's finest were peeved that they had been beaten to a scoop on their own doorstep by a mere foreigner from Madrid?

Street Of Shame

THE *Sunday Times* review section of 30 January carried what even for the *Sunday Times* was an astonishingly sycophantic article about George Robertson, once defence secretary new secretary general of NATO.

A choice passage read as follows: "Humanity is a word close friends have associated with Robertson, since his childhood. At the age of five, he opened the door of his father's police house on the Scottish island of Islay in a blizzard, to be faced with a cold stranger begging to be allowed to sleep in a cell, having missed the last mainland ferry. Robertson said yes immediately, before asking his father. After giving the man a cell bed, and breakfast the next day, George and his father found a note in the cell thanking the boy for his kindness. It was signed Eric Blair, better known as George Orwell."

There are a number of mysteries in this account, including the supernatural powers of the boy George. George Robertson was born in April 1946, so when at the age of five he opened the door to George Orwell, he was one of the few people to have met the great man after the latter's death in 1950. It's true that Orwell does refer in a letter to Celia Kirwan on 17 August 1946 to staying the night in the police station at Port Ellen, Islay, though he wasn't very cold at the time. On the contrary.

"Port Ellen was full to the brim owing to a cattle show, all the hotels were full up so I slept in a cell in the police station, along with a lot of other people..." Could this have been the occasion when the novelist was so warmly welcomed by George Robertson? If so the future secretary general, now Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, showed remarkable abilities for a baby only four months old.

HIS MASTER'S VOICE

More and more of my time goes in dealing with stories written by the journalist-spin-doctor, whose inaccurate speculation is accompanied by consequently misleading interpretation.

— Alastair Campbell, *Times*, 31 January

Like so much of what the press says about the state of Blair's mind, it is bunkum. It is, in fact, spin. Newspaper spin. The very spin that made necessary the creation of countervailing spin-doctors."

— Roy Greenslade, *Guardian Media*, 31 January

AT LAST a scoop for the *Express*'s crack unit of investigative hacks.

Back in 1997, they reveal dramatically, Geoffrey Robinson set up a "junket" for Gordon Brown and a few treasury chums to England's world cup qualifying match against Italy in Rome. The paper was so excited by this further proof of Robinson's sinister "hospitality" it gave the story a full page. One or two salient points were, however, omitted.

FACT: The participants in this "junket" – who included Charlie Whelan and Ed Balls, as well as lobby hacks Don McIntyre, Kevin Maguire and Peter Oborne – all paid their own way. In fact some of them were heard to grumble about the expense, since Robinson insisted they all fly club class.

FACT: The existence of the "junket" is hardly news. Peter Oborne wrote a long and amusing piece about it in the *Spectator* at the time, a mere three years ago. It shouldn't have been too difficult for the *Express*'s intrepid gumshoes to track down Oborne for confirmation: he works at, er, the *Express*.

BAD TIMING

FRONT page of the *Daily Telegraph*, Saturday 29 January: "Swordsman stabs MP and kills his aide."

Front page of the *Telegraph* arts and books section, 29 January: A picture of a Samurai swordsman headed "A new slice of life".

"OK, let's make it simpler — does anybody know a good reason why these two should *be married?*

MARK STEYN, columnist in America for the *Daily Telegraph*, went on strike late last year when he noticed that Zoe Heller was being given pole position on the op-ed page for *her* American jottings.

Fortunately his wounded pride was salved by the paper's owner Conrad Black, a great fan of Steyn, who ordered the paper's editor to show more deference to his star contributor.

It is pleasing to report that Steyn has no hard feelings. Indeed, he has been showing a touching interest in the welfare of gorgeous pouting deputy editor Sarah Sands and the equally gorgeous editor, Charles Moore. Or, as Steyn put it when talking to Black the other day: "When are you going to get rid of the actress and the bishop?"

JUST FANCY THAT!

Half of Scottish farms in the red

The Scotsman 25.1.00

Scots experts to help Georgia's rural economy

The Scotsman 25.1.00

HATS off to Pandora, the *Indie*'s brilliant diarist, for revealing last Friday that "preparations for the restored version of the Stanley Kubrick epic film *Spartacus* are well under way".

The only problem, Pandora added, was the destruction of one short bit of soundtrack, which required the late Lord Olivier's dialogue to be redone. Luckily Anthony Hopkins was up to the task of mimicking the great man, and agreed to record the missing lines.

True enough; but a tiny bit late. Hopkins recorded his mock-Olivier dialogue 10 years ago; and the fully restored film was rereleased to a fanfare of publicity in, er, April 1991.

CONRAD BLACK's tactful approach to staff relations is evident in his treatment of hacks at the *Calgary Herald*.

Back in October 1998 they voted overwhelmingly to form a branch of the Communication, Energy and Paperworkers' Union of Canada, but more than a year later Conrad still refuses to negotiate a collective agreement. And so, since last November, more than 200 of them have been on strike.

Black, who also owns the Canadian *National Post*, has now despatched a charming letter to Jim Sinclair of the British Columbia Federation of Labour. "The present strike is an attemped left-wing *coup d'état* in the newsroom of the *Calgary Herald*, which serves a community that includes very few mindless socialists of the type you would find convivial," he rages, apparently forgetting that more than 75 percent of staff voted to join the union. "If you wish to cancel a subscription to the *National Post* (presumably as a result of lip-strain after too ambitious a foray into bisyllabic reading), contact its circulation department."

MY LETTER on Wednesday re the delay in grant aid to the Longbridge Plant should have referred to the Government being populated by lawyers and academics, not liars and academics as printed.

Birmingham Evening Mail

MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE MAKE

AS investigators from the Stock Exchange and department of trade and industry trawl through the share dealings of *Mirror* editor Piers Morgan, his City Slicker share tipsters and a gaggle of assorted City spivs and PR merchants, the Slickers themselves – Anil Bhoyrul and James Hipwell – may be forced to rely on the Ernest Saunders defence. Though they are slightly too young to be affected by pre-senile dementia, they could convincingly plead selective amnesia.

On 7 January, for instance, they slagged off *Sun* rival Ian King, recently arrived from the *Mail on Sunday*. "It is clear, after just two days in the job, that you don't know what you are doing," they gloated. "You launched your column with a campaign to scrap stamp duty on shares – a vital means of government revenue. We believe that the piddly 0.5 per cent is a small price to pay for better schools and more hospital beds. Sad that your paper does not."

Just 20 days later – on 27 January – the Slickers had apparently forgotten their high principles. "It looks like our long-running campaign to abolish stamp duty on shares may pay off," they revealed. "We've been pleading with the Stock Exchange for yonks to get this ludicrous tax removed – the word is that we may be close to success."

As any fule kno, the Stock Exchange does not set taxation levels. Do the Slickers have any idea of what they're doing?

Their gormless editor certainly doesn't. "For the record, I did not buy the shares with any prior knowledge that the *Mirror*'s City Slickers column was going to publish a story about Viglen the next day," Morgan insisted last week, fending off charges of insider trading with the novel defence that he doesn't read his own newspaper until after it's gone to press.

In fact, however, Moron's beloved City Slickers have been banging on about Viglen for some time. "Top of our pile is Sir Alan Sugar's Viglen" (28/1/2000); "the shares surged 187.5p" (19/1); "get in quick for the pay-day of a lifetime" (18/1); "Viglen: still a strong buy" (30/12/99); "Viglen: you're already 44% up on your money" (23/12); "we've had quite a result with Alan Sugar's Viglen Technology"; and so on and on. Was all this missed by Moron as well?

THERE are other City Slicker articles that have apparently escaped his notice. Last November, Bhoyrul and Hipwell revealed that, rather like their editor, Lord Archer had miraculously bought shares in a company (GEC) just before they doubled in value. "*Mirror* investigates: Did he make a pile?" they asked, immediately sending their dossier to the DTI and the Stock Exchange. As for Archole: "The *Mirror* knows where he should be going. To jail."

In September 1999 they reported on yet another insider-dealing scandal, this time concerning NatWest's bid for Legal & General. "It's almost impossible to secure a conviction for insider dealing so people do it willy-nilly, without ever thinking of the consequences," the Slickers commented indignantly. "City regulators should come up with more effective ways of preventing it from happening and dealing with it when it does – and quickly."

Er, quite.

THE Viglen scandal isn't the first time the *Mirror*'s financial coverage has raised eyebrows.

On 12 January the City Slickers claimed that Bula Resources, a hitherto obscure Irish company, had discovered new reserves of oil and gas in Libya. "Reports of oil and gas finds involving Irish companies should really be treated with caution," the *Irish Times* noted the next morning, "but the *Mirror* report yesterday was sufficient to trigger a flood of bidding for Bula." In London, the company's share price rose by more than 26 percent in a frantic day's trading.

As the *Irish Times* observed: "Some speculators have made a killing on the recent surge." Were any of these lucky gamblers employees of Mirror Group Newspapers?

THE City Slickers' reputation as, er, "rough diamonds" long precedes their arrival at the *Mirror*.

At Christmas 1996, as we reported in *Eye* 926, Anil Bhoyrul and his chum the Hon. Charlie Kerr were arrested at Regent's Park zoo in the early hours of the morning while attempting to steal an Arctic penguin. Although Bhoyrul claimed it was his first offence, Charlie Kerr – son and heir to Lord Teviot – had been fingered for an identical crime some years earlier. On that occasion the Hon. Charlie hid the penguin at his flat, where it lived in the bath for a week on a diet of fish fingers before he decided to return the hapless creature to the zoo.

The record of the other Slicker, James Hipwell, is equally impressive. Back in the 1980s he broke into a south London police station on Christmas Eve – while the rozzers were distracted by festive celebrations – and stole a sergeant's jacket and hat from a locker. When a constable caught up with him a few minutes later, Hipwell pointed to the three stripes on his uniform and tried to pull rank on the lowly arresting officer. For his pains, he was then banged up in the cells for the rest of the night and most of Christmas Day.

THAT Anil Bhoyrul and James Hipwell should be at the centre of the most damaging scandal to hit City journalism for years is no surprise. Both are graduates with honours from the Tom Rubython School of Fantasy Journalism where truth is an unlooked for bonus as readers of *Business Age*, the original *Sunday Business* and now *EuroBusiness* know only too well.

The attorney-general tried to have Bhoyrul and Rubython jailed for contempt over articles which could have aborted the football match-fixing trial of another Bhoyrul "pal", John Fashanu. "Much of what appeared in the articles was not only prejudicial but untrue", the court of appeal was told. Both were only saved by the fact that the Rubython *Sunday Business*'s circulation was considered too small to effect the trial at which anyway Fashanu was acquitted.

The *Moron* though reaches millions not thousands. So the risk for those unsophisticated non-City insiders among the *Moron* readers lured in by Bhoyrul and friends is much greater. A point Piers Morgan and the owners of the *Moron*, headed by City sophisticate Sir Victor Blank, appear to have willingly ignored.

"Stop whingeing... I think it's nice when a husband and wife can work together"

HEALTH secretary Alan Milburn countered Tory attacks on Labour's handling of the NHS by accusing the Conservative party of acting like "the political wing of the private health insurance industry".

The implication was that "new" Labour wouldn't dream of encouraging private insurers such as BUPA... except, that is, in Scotland.

Under Labour Lanarkshire health board has handed over 90 beds to BUPA Healthcare Homes; Glasgow health board has privatised 180 elderly care beds, using a BUPA subsidiary, Care First; and Ayrshire health board has also handed over 90 beds to Care First.

THE London Labour party's website features a list of all its MPs with a link to a web page giving a personal profile of each.

Odd that only one of the 57 links doesn't work – and curiouser and curiouser that it is the curriculum vitae of "Red" Ken Livingstone, London mayoral hopeful and all-round hate figure to the party leadership, that is unavailable.

Could this be another cunning attempt to rig the selection process for Labour's mayoral candidate in the capital?

TONY BLAIR has been busy telling MPs he has never attacked Ken Livingstone personally, but that as Labour leader he is entitled to express an opinion on Leninspart's abilities to run London as mayor.

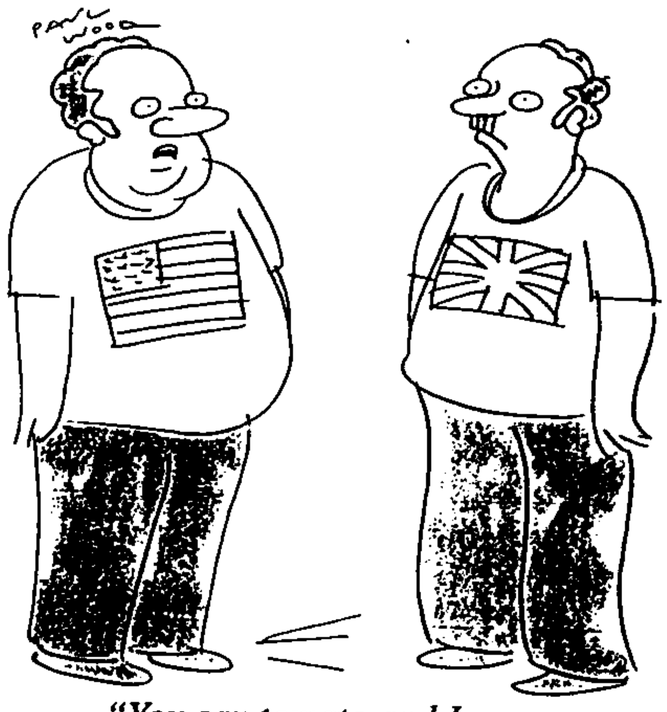
But no one believes the great helmsman for a minute: so desperate is he to avoid even the whiff of defeat that he has called upon others in the Downing Street bunker to turn their fire on the evil Red Ken.

Loyally doing his bit to make sure ministers and MPs churn out drearily predictable articles for the *Grauniad* and letters to local Labour supporters bemoaning the mad Fenian, Marxist, baby-eating Leninspart is Number 10 staffer Pat McFadden. The cheerless Scot has even taken to assailing MPs on their mobile telephones, urging them to do their bit.

Meanwhile the dwindling band of London MPs brave enough to have told the whips that they are voting for Red Ken have been boldly informed by leadership loyalists that they "may not receive quite the amount of help" they might usually expect from the party "come the general election." Even worse, others have been promised a "cup of tea with Tony" in an effort to garner those vital extra votes for the hapless Dobbo.

EDUCATION standards in Sheffield are among the worst in the country, says a new Ofsted report. Overall standards are below the national average and the rate of improvement is too slow.

This will be of particular concern to the MP for Sheffield Brightside and leader of the city council from 1980 to 1987 — none other than, er, David Blunkett, education secretary.



"You say tomato and I say genetically modified tomato"

THE saga of chicanery in the Co-operative Wholesale Society in south-east London (see *Eyes passim*) grinds on remorselessly.

Two members of the CWS executive who had the temerity to vote to have a member's ballot before the society's 50,000 block vote was cast in the Labour mayoral selection, have themselves been purged from their local Merton Co-op.

The score-settling occurred after Wimbledon MP and champion of the working classes Roger Casales arrived with Merton MP Siobhain McDonagh – sister of "new" Labour's feared general secretary Margaret McDonagh – with a posse of 14 Blairites. They thoughtfully pointed out it was high time that the Merton Co-op had its annual general meeting rather than the ordinary one advertised. Once the agm had been voted for, they were able to take their revenge on the two souls old fashioned enough to want ballots in the first place, replacing them with dutiful clones. "New" Labour, new democracy!

THE leaking of extracts from Paddy Ashdown's diaries to the *Sunday Telegraph* caused much anxiety and gnashing of teeth for his literary agent Michael Sissons, who was negotiating with publishers and newspapers for a money-spinning two-volume deal.

The former Lib Dem leader has taken legal action against the *Torygraph* and a settlement is now imminent. But this presents a delicate problem for the canny agent, who is desperate to resume negotiations. "If I don't reveal the result of the action against the *Telegraph*," he tells a colleague, "publishers are bound to ask me about it when I approach them. But if I do refer to the settlement, it might be leaked to the press."

In fact Sissons could have a bigger problem if newspapers and publishers decide that the only interesting material – on Ashdown's secret discussions with Blair about a coalition – has already come out. There may be nothing left except perhaps a predictable attack on the SDP and long self-glorifying accounts of how Paddy brought peace to the Balkans. That will reduce the advance considerably.

Ashdown though remains defiant and has asked Sissons to secure a two-book deal.

WHAT do the London Underground and cigarettes have in common?

Apart from the fact that both are dirty, smelly and bad for your health, the common link is a man named Tony Maguire.

At the end of last month London Underground announced that Maguire had been appointed to the new £80,000-a-year post of communications director for John Prescott's public private partnership scheme.

Maguire's qualifications for the job include his former role as corporate affairs director in New Zealand for the discredited cigarette company British American Tobacco. A perfect new Labour choice by Prescott.

WHO gave Stagecoach tycoon Brian Souter the confidence to enter the political arena and stump up £500,000 to bankroll the campaign against repealing section 28?

Step forward Wendy Alexander, the Scottish communities minister who is fighting to repeal Thatcher's anti-gay legislation. Alexander announced Souter's involvement in Labour's "champions for change", a hit squad set up to make local government as efficient as private industry.

But Alexander and Scottish first secretary Donald Dewar, who invited the Stagecoach founder along to his "leadership forum", are kicking themselves now that Souter has become the champion of no change at all.

THE big double trick for dealing with government contracts is to get your man on the inside quickly – and then to pull inside experts out of government and into your company.

No firm is more practised at this than the all-purpose "service company", Serco. As soon as the Tories launched their "private finance panel" to drum up support for their private finance initiatives (PFIs), Serco supplied the panel's chief executive, David Steeds, then the company's corporate development director.

Now Serco has some sort of stake in PFI contracts of almost every variety, from hospitals in Norwich to prisons in Scotland. And it has also built up a formidable pile of military contracts, including part of the £2.2bn 25-year contract to run the troubled atomic weapons establishment at Aldermaston.

Again the company keeps in touch with former government expertise. The latest report of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments notes that Sir Roger Austin, former deputy chief of defence procurement at the ministry of defence, is to be paid as a "fellow of the strategic forum", run by Serco.

THE terribly important-sounding post of "Ambassador for Business" to the Welsh assembly was recently filled by Roger Thomas, a man well-qualified for the job.

Not only is Thomas legal spokesman for the CBI in Wales, vice-president of the Cardiff Institute of Management and deputy chairman of the enterprise agency Business In Focus, he is also a senior partner in the Cardiff-based law firm of Eversheds – which recently won the sole contract to do legal work for the assembly.

"Bang go our plans for world domination!"

WILL Peter Kilfoyle's departure for the backbenches sour his close friendship with the Blair-Booths?

If it does, they will have to find a new Santa for their Christmas parties at Downing Street. Kilfoyle also played a blinder as greeter at Cherie's father Tony Booth's fourth wedding in Liverpool in 1998, to Stephanie Buckley, where the then defence minister had the important role of announcing distinguished guests such as Alan Eden, who played Alan Bradley in *Coronation Street*, and John McCardle (Bill Corkhill in *Brookside*).

As one fellow guest told the *Eye*, dabbing away a tear: "Peter was as close to Tony as it is possible for a northerner to be."

ON Wednesday 26 January the *Times* reported that a rat had run across the floor of the Commons the previous night and quoted the inspired quip from Stephen Pound MP: "Where are MPs like Howard Stoate and Liam Fox when you need them?"

The following day Matthew Parris ruminated at length in his *Times* column about the mouse in the house (there was some debate about what kind of rodent it was) and came up with an inspired quip of his own: "Where were Liam Fox MP or Howard Stoate MP when we needed them? Either could have nipped this rodent in the bud." What a coincidence!

IN THE COURTS

LORD SAVILLE of Newdigate's neutrally named Bloody Sunday Tribunal is facing problems.

Newspaper reports last week suggested that the bill for the tribunal, which has been running at more than £1m a month recently despite no hearings taking place, could reach £30m or more.

The legal teams are furious at these suggestions which they feel are designed to undermine them by suggesting that they would work for that little. In fact they are so angry the barristers are seeking a judicial review of the fees being offered.

Ludicrously the senior briefs are expected to work for just £200 an hour (plus prep fees, etc). Their *juniors* are on £100 an hour plus extras and are particularly upset. They want £134 an hour basic, a demand which the Northern Ireland office and Saville have so far refused to accede to. An expensive trip to the courts looms.

Meanwhile Saville is struggling with a dilemma over prospective prisoner of conscience Toby Harnden. The *Daily Telegraph*'s Washington correspondent is maintaining his principled stance of refusing to name soldiers X and Y, whom he interviewed and whose identification Saville has demanded on pain of criminal sanction.

As the *Eye* revealed last year, the release to the tribunal of a batch of drafts and memos by the *Telegraph*'s solicitors led to the discovery of an enigmatic note from Harnden to his newsdesk: "I have kept this as tight as possible but there's plenty more if it is wanted. TH."

Saville took this to mean that, as well as the soldiers' names, Harnden had much more information than he was letting on but deferred locking him up in the hope that he would either crack or that the tribunal would be able to acquire the information some other way.

Alas for the judge, neither hope has been fulfilled. Saville is believed to be desperate to avoid turning the dashing Toby into a media martyr but is equally afraid to antagonise the relatives (most of whom are genuinely seeking an explanation for the deaths of their loved ones, but some of whom have a much darker political agenda).

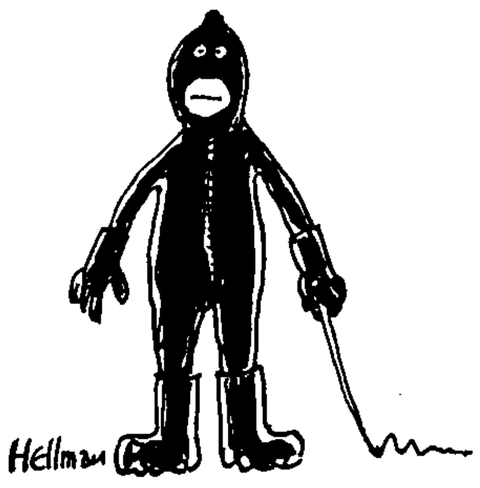
Further delays are now likely as Saville tries to put off the day when he has to rule that Harnden is in contempt. These will of course lead to more arguments over the escalating legal costs. Saville must be wishing he'd stayed at home.

•OPERA

Don Giovanni, National Theater, Sala Moniuszki, 19:00. "Don Juan" screws around with one girl too many and gets dragged to hell by a statue.

Warsaw Insider

GREY ARIAS

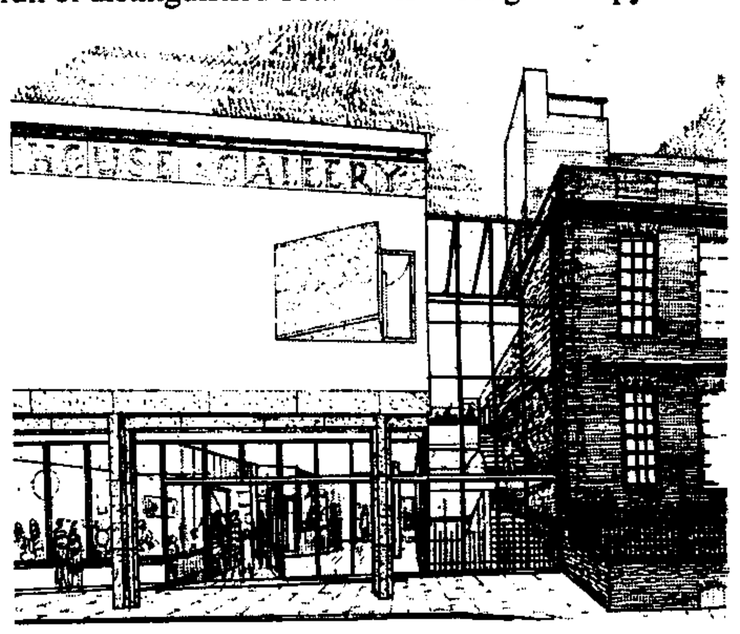


"Vesti La Rubba"

NOOKS and CORNERS

MY picture shows the exciting new design for the extension of the Pallant House Gallery in Chichester, a project costing some £5m for which aid from the heritage lottery fund is being sought.

Pallant House itself is a wonderful red brick house built in 1712 on the corner of North Pallant and East Pallant, in the heart of an area full of distinguished 18th century houses for which Chichester is famous. Since 1982, Pallant House has been open to the public as an art gallery with a remarkable collection of modern art. There is the collection left by Walter Hussey, dean of Chichester, and that of Charles Kearley. Now it is to be augmented by the bequest of Sir Colin St John Wilson, architect of the new British Library.



In fact poor Pallant House is simply bursting at the seams, so a big new extension is vital. Besides, it is the duty of every gallery director constantly to expand his empire: nothing more boring, of course, than a finite collection in a small museum, no matter how charming. The new extension is designed by Long & Kentish; that is, by M.J. Long, who is married to Sir Colin.

Very convenient that, as it means there can be no friction between gallery, architect and donor. Besides, Sir Colin St John Wilson is also associated architect. The result is an uncompromisingly modern design. "The first symbol is the blend of the old and the new," announces the appeal leaflet. "The plans set out to preserve and emphasise the historic house as an architectural entity. Pallant House was uncompromisingly modern in its day, and a modern gallery is paying tribute to that."

The trouble of course is that Pallant House is simply not modern enough, however elegant and beautiful: its timid designers still harked back to the past, what with its Classical doorcase, quoins, cornice and careful proportions. None of that irrelevant legacy of Rome in the new extension which, as we march into the 21st century, boldly returns to the 20th.

With its flat, white facade raised up on pilotis, it bravely looks back to Le Corbusier and the pioneering Modern Movement of the 1920s. It is separated from the red-brick house by that brilliant, all purpose High Tec cliché of the 1970s, a glass wall. On the facade, a skewed window is a witty reference to Alvar Aalto, while a large inscription helpfully announcing "Pallant House Gallery" provides the modern image that the discreet facade of the old house so conspicuously lacks.

Now, I am sorry to have to report that this striking 20th century design has met with opposition. The pathetic, conservative, blinkered, complacent bourgeoisie of Chichester complain that the new white blank façade is not "in keeping" with the character of the conservation area, unlike the timid, craven, red-brick Neo-Georgian 1930s building which the museum extension will replace. Oddly enough, when Aalto built his celebrated extension to the Gothenburg law courts, he used the same palette of materials as the old, symmetrical classical building but in a new way. And Sandy Wilson's own British Library is faced in red brick, apparently out of respect to its neighbour, St Pancras.

So it is good to see that the frankly modern new extension rejects that compromising approach, in favour of the conventional misreading of William Morris's belief (specific to Victorian conditions) that it is wrong to copy historic styles in new work — a dictum that has justified scores of excitingly brutal and inappropriate modern additions.

EDWARD Chambré Hardman was a photographer who lived in Liverpool. He was actually rather a good photographer, who not only made portraits of local people (not least the young Beryl Bainbridge) but also recorded the streets and buildings and monuments of that once-great city.

Chambré Hardman died in 1988 at the age of 92, leaving £50,000 and all his negatives to a trust established to make his house and studio in Rodney Street as a museum for Liverpool. The house is rather a wonder, looking almost exactly as it did in the 1940s — in the photographer's prime.

Now the trustees of the E. Chambré Hardman Trust have announced that, despite all their efforts in trying to get help, they cannot afford to maintain the Rodney Street house and open it to the public. So it is to be sold and the negatives and photograph collection given to the National Museum of Photography, which will, of course, look after them. But the Museum is in Bradford. So, at a stroke, Liverpool will lose two assets. After all, photographic archives are now worth big money — like the BBC Hulton Picture Library, idiotically sold for £2m and now valued at ten times that.

Rodney Street is Liverpool's finest, a concentration of fine Georgian houses running parallel with Hope Street between the two great cathedrals. Liverpool today can only rely on tourism, and the Liverpool unitary plan commits support for "the growth and tourist activities" in the Hope Street area. But, as always, Liverpool city council can be relied upon to do the wrong thing for the city, its tourism development department declining to take any active interest. Yet the National Trust, rightly or wrongly, has taken on Paul McCartney's birthplace; surely Chambré Hardman's house should be preserved and opened. All that is required is less than £1m. Surely the sort of thing the lottery might support? Obviously not: there are much more important things to do with all that (public) money.

Another £32m has just been committed to keep the wretched dome going, thus throwing bad money after bad and putting that £1m the E. Chambré Hardman Trust needs in proper perspective. The total cost of the meaningless, mediocre dome, which nobody sane ever wanted, will be over £800,000,000. Who cares about the regions?

'Piloti'

CHURCH NEWS

RECRUITMENT ads for the £40,000-a-year post of press officer for the diocese of London have stunned other staff.

Workers at Diocesan House, Pimlico, administrative centre of the CofE in London, have been tightly squeezed and £40,000 is equal to the pay of the diocese's chief executive. This is, however, quite a tough job. As the specification states: "The task is to develop the communication between God and Londoners with an emphasis on quality of service and urgency."

MEALS ON WHEELS
trolley, elderly person never used in box. £75.

Birmingham Evening Mail

ITV

Sitcoms
(BBC1, BBC2, ITV, C4)

WHO would be a writer of situation comedy? In America, of course, virtually anyone would: job status is high and the rewards can be spectacular. (And unless you work on Frasier or, at a pinch, Friends, you don't even need a sense of humour.)

In Britain, though, it's a thankless task. The money is rotten, the timeslots are few, the prestige is non-existent, the executives haven't a clue. British sitcom writers talk about America a lot. It's not a subject they find remotely amusing.

For sitcom has become the Aunt Sally of British broadcasting. Lazy critics — which is to say the vast majority of them — will routinely overpraise the dullest documentary, will give modish but unwatchable drama (Eureka Street) the benefit of the doubt, and will slag off every new sitcom in sight.

Why not? They're the easiest targets of them all, other than possibly Judith Chalmers. Sitcoms don't have to fail by much to fail utterly, and despite everyone's rose-tinted reminiscences of the 60s and 70s, the failure rate has always been high. Fish shouldn't swim in barrels if they don't want to be shot.

And yet, amazingly, TV companies are still making them, in smaller numbers than before, maybe, but in larger numbers than some at ITV Network Centre would prefer. At the end of the rainbow lies the promise of a genuine longterm sustainable success.

The Royle Family and Dinnerladies have delivered solid audiences, which will surely expand further with their next repeat runs. Can any of the current batch emulate them?

BBC1's Peter Salmon certainly hopes so. Indeed, he is said to be "gagging" for mainstream family-friendly formats to fill the 8:30 slot currently infested by docusoaps, vets and docusoaps about vets. So he schedules his one decent show, Beast, which is actually about a vet, at 10pm.

Simon Nye has been writing too many series lately, not all of them as well as he wrote Men Behaving Badly. But this has been cleverly cast and already feels polished and confident. Salmon's only new offering before the watershed is My Hero, a painfully creaky vehicle for Ardal O'Hanlon co-written by the man who once gave us So Haunt Me.

One-note characters, rotten jokes, actors with fear in their eyes. Radio Times put it on the cover. Back for series two, a kind decision, is The Peter Principle, another work-based format with Jim Broadbent as an imbecilic bank manager. There are signs of hope amid all the gurning. Worse shows have reached series five. Repeated at prime time are Open All Hours, The Royle Family (series one) and Only Fools And Horses (the world having not come to an end).

BBC2's Jane Root, it is said, has sitcom commissions coming out of her ears, and yet she still chooses to show Gimme Gimme Gimme twice a week. This witless travesty has enjoyed the most favourable reviews of any sitcom in living memory, probably because writer Jonathan Harvey is a noted gay playwright and so must be talented. Not on this evidence, he isn't. It's frighteningly self-indulgent and almost totally joke-free. Series three is on its way.

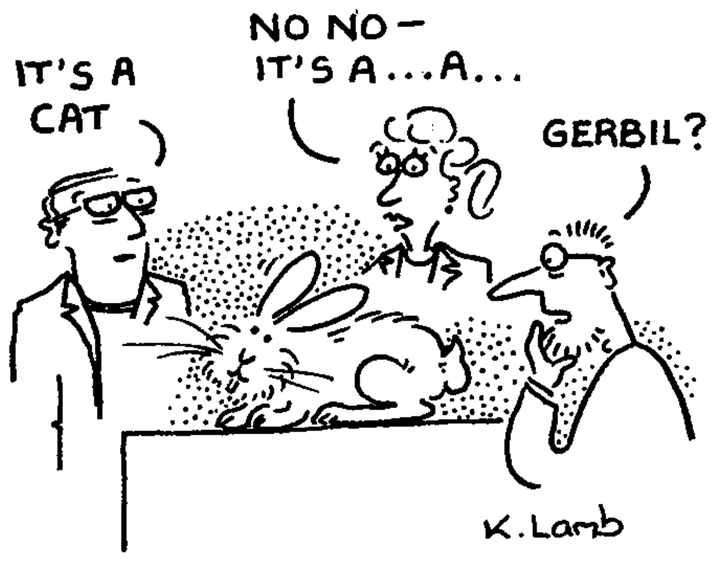
BBC2's only other new offering is The Creatives, which is widely rumoured to have been reordered from BBC Scotland purely to fulfil regional obligations. Reginald Perrin receives yet another repeat.

At ITV avoidance of all risk remains top priority, which means that a series as harmless as The Grimleys has to go out at 10pm on Sundays, with a repeat late afternoon on Saturdays. It isn't bad, either: as subtle as a custard pie, but as sure of itself as well. Unlike previous sitcoms set in the 1970s, it actually manages to evoke the 1970s. On any other channel it would have been given a more favourable timeslot, but this is ITV, where fear of failure is endemic. Unless it's a sitcom based on Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?, 8:30 is strictly off limits.

Channel 4's only current offering is The Wilsons, a wonderfully blatant attempt to recycle The Royle Family, only without that series's distinctiveness, verisimilitude or laughs. If it's an accident of timing, it's a particularly serious accident. Even so, there's a kernel of something interesting here: a hint of what might have been, had not the dead hand of Channel 4 been involved. The station's dismal comedy record precedes it: either it chooses badly, or it ruins what it has. (Sometimes, as with The 11 O'Clock Show, it manages both.)

Seven shows at the peak of the winter season — and the chances are that only a couple of them will still be around in a couple of years (and they will probably be the wrong ones). So who would be a writer of situation comedy? Virtually anyone would, of course...

'Couch Potato'



Vets out-of practice

SPLIT personalities

Bob Moore

William Wallace & Gromit

MEDIA NEWS

THE highlight of BBC comedy so far this year was to be found in the 25 January issue of in-house magazine *Ariel*, which featured an arslikhan special on outgoing director-general John Birt under the fawning headline "The great reformer bows out".

"This week the BBC says goodbye to the director-general widely credited with saving the organisation from itself in the late 80s and 90s, and with securing its future beyond 2000.

"The chairman, Sir Christopher Bland, regards him as a great director-general, and he is not alone. John's Birt's contribution has been recognised first with a knighthood and most recently with a life peerage.

"Friends and supporters, broadcasters, performers, politicians and colleagues have already been paying their tributes, many coming together at a party at Television Centre on Sunday night."

BBC hacks could hardly have been more fawning if they had allowed Birt to write his own farewell tribute – and, er, sure enough *Ariel's* inside pages were devoted to a verbatim interview with "The man who came to help".

"To judge from his words, the hours he worked, and the fortune he eschewed as an ITV executive, John Birt came to the BBC with more passion for the organisation than many of the people who spent their careers here."

12.05am
Tomorrow's World
As yesterday. (Txt)

What's On TV

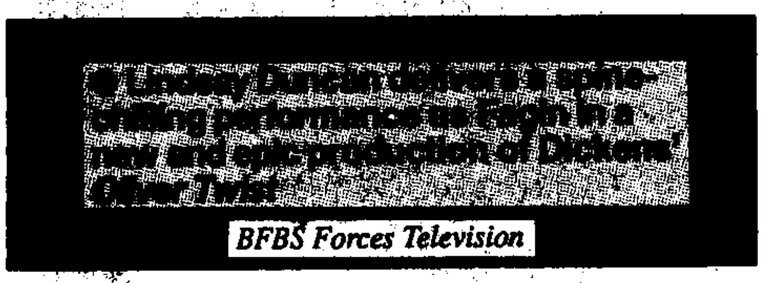
JUST FANCY THAT!

WILL the BBC be taking legal action to defend *Newsnight*, which features embarrassingly in a GCSE maths question set by the board EdExcel?

As students at Plymouth College were asked recently in a mock using a paper from last year:

10. Dilys and John start watching *Newsnight* on the television. The probability that Dilys will fall asleep is 7 in 10. The probability that John will fall asleep is 6 in 10.

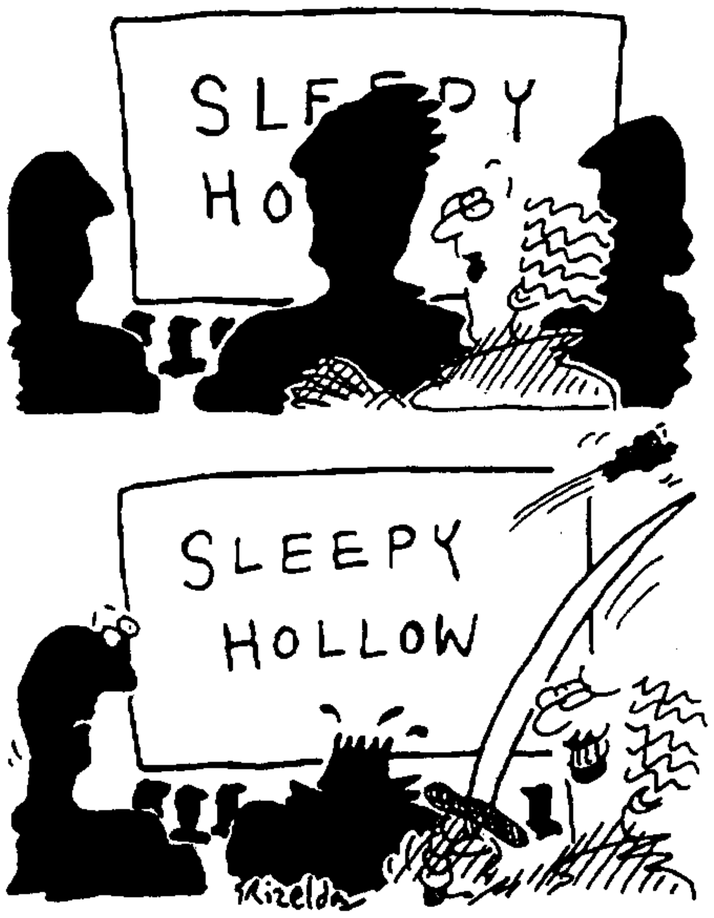
Work out the probability that: a) Both of them will fall asleep during the programme, b) Exactly one of them will fall asleep during the programme.



BBC Number crunchings

1 Number of murderers in Harold Shipman case

78 Number of BBC staff covering the case



PLUGGED IN

THE *Sun*'s satellite TV agenda was even more obvious than usual on 3 February when the Murdoch rag splashed on the claim that the TV licence fee will rise by £15 to fund the BBC's digital output.

While this front page exclusive attacked the BBC windfall, for good measure inside the letters page carried a "big issue" attack on Greg Dyke.

With 13 letters against him and not a single one in favour, *Sun* readers clearly have as balanced a view of the BBC's new director-general as their favourite newspaper. Or do they?

ONLY three fixtures remained to be played in the fifth round of the FA cup on Sunday 30 January after Saturday's matches.

Two of these, Chelsea v. Leicester and Blackburn Rovers v. Newcastle United, warranted in-depth coverage in the *Sunday Times* sports section, while the third, Leeds v. Aston Villa, merited only a tiny mention.

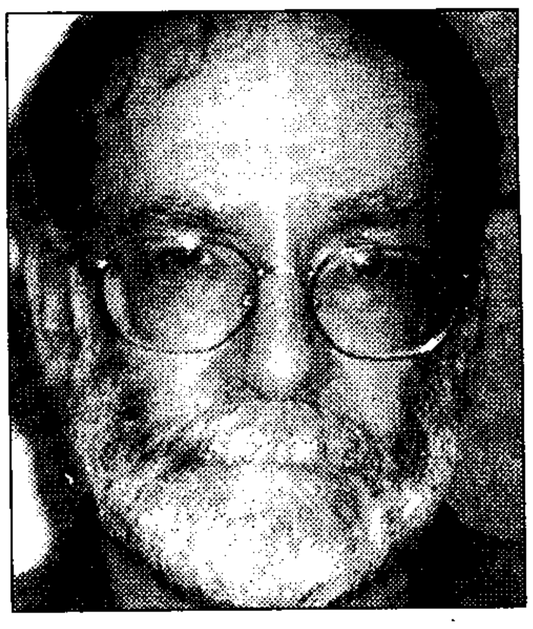
No prize for guessing which matches were broadcast on Sky and which on ITV.

HACKWATCH

Hyde And Sic

WHY, oh why, did he do it? As the *Independent* pointed out: "The case against Harold Shipman offers no real insight into what drove him to kill." The *Daily Star* concurred: "There was no established motive for what made the doctor kill so many patients."

This was clearly unacceptable: Fleet Street, like nature, abhors a vacuum. The *Star* deduced, on no evidence whatever, that "Shipman's women-only murder spree may have been triggered by hatred for any female who lived longer than his beloved mum Vera". In the *Mirror*, Dr Alan Wise blamed "severe depression" and "an obsessive compulsive disorder". "I think he was motivated by anger and guilt at his mother's death," forensic psychologist Ian Stephen wrote on the same page.



The *Independent* reckoned that Shipman "had no motive, save the desire to play God". In the *Sun*, the "leading *Cracker*-style psychologist" Dr Richard Badcock insisted Shipman "was not playing God but dealing with his own inadequacy." In the Scottish *Daily Record*, Catholic priest Father Denis Maher said Shipman "was playing God". "In the end," the *Guardian* agreed, "he could not resist playing God". The *Scotsman*'s resident intellectual, Ian Bell, was unimpressed by the suggestion that Shipman "desired to play God", since "even that claim only delineates shadows". Perhaps Bell hadn't noticed his own newspaper's coverage – headlined "DOCTOR WHO PLAYED GOD".

A more original idea came from consultant psychiatrist Dr David Enoch in the *Mirror*: "Finally, there's evil. That has to be on the agenda." Every media-shrink in the land, not to mention a posse of graphologists and other entrail-readers, penned an instant diagnosis. With one notable exception: where, oh where, was Dr Raj Persaud?

Amid the hysteria, at least the *Daily Star* kept its sense of proportion. "PAGE THREE KATIE GREW UP WITH HIS KIDS", it revealed, filling most of a page with a photo of gorgeous pouting "*Daily Star* babe Katie Richmond" who had once lived in the same street as the murderous medic. "Katie, whose topless modelling poses are a massive hit with *Daily Star* readers and take her all over the world, admitted her family found the bombshell that the doc was a mass killer hard to accept." In another fine scoop, the *Star* also disclosed that one of Shipman's suspected victims, Joan Dean, was a pal of "*Coronation Street* favourite" John Savident, who plays barmy butcher Fred Elliott.

The Glendas focussed on Shipman's wife, Primrose, for whom they had nothing but sympathy. Sue Carroll of the *Mirror* described her as a tragic figure who had been "abused and robbed of her dignity" – and then promptly robbed and abused her some more: "Tired, weary, without a scrap of make-up, lank, greasy grey hair clinging to her scalp and eyes that have long lost their sparkle... dumpy little 'Prim'... an ugly duckling... she allowed herself to become this frumpy unkempt housewife." Lynda Lee-Potter added her own bouquet: "Primrose Shipman looks terrifying herself, with her vast bulk, grey pudgy face and unwashed hair... She's a woman who knows how to hate."

Talk of terrifying bulks naturally brings us to the extravagant prose of Paul Johnson, who delivered a sermon for the *Daily Mail*. "The great fact about evil, especially evil on a monumental scale, is its sheer visibility," he raved. "Once uncovered, it erupts from the surface of life and towers over us, huge, hideous and unmistakeable, like a black and jagged mountain of horror. [*Get on with it – Ed.*] We find ourselves cowering in fear at the immensity of it all... colossal... immense... immeasurable... large... huge..." Thank God for *Roget's Thesaurus*, eh?

The papers were unanimous in their praise for Angela Woodruff, the solicitor who realised that Shipman had forged her mother's will. The *Daily Star*, in a fit of inspiration, dubbed her "a Miss Marple-type sleuth", whereas the *Mirror* noted that "Angela Woodruff made an unlikely Miss Marple."

The hacks' show of literary knowledge went even beyond Agatha Christie. The *Mirror*'s pull-out supplement was titled "The Dr Jekyll of Hyde". Geddit? You could hardly fail to. "The Dr Jekyll of Hyde." (*Glasgow Herald.*) "The Doctor Jekyll of Hyde." (*Grauniad.*) "Dr Jekyll of Hyde." (*Birmingham Evening Mail.*) A day later, when this particular headline had been, er, done to death, the eminent *Indie* columnist David Aaronovitch deigned to notice the murders. A hundred killings seemed by no means impossible, he argued, "given the modus operandi of the Dr Jekyll of Hyde". Boom boom!

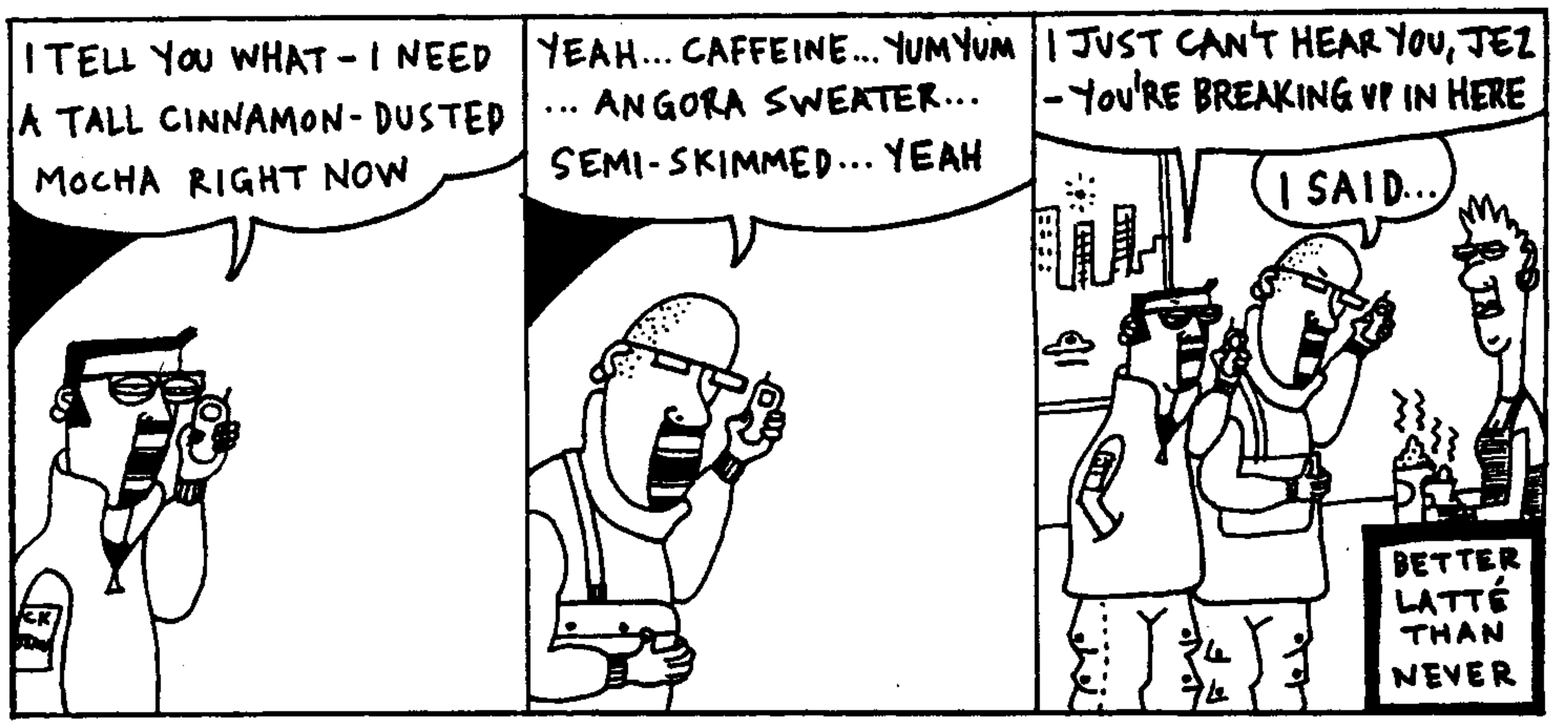
So much for Jekyll. What of Hyde? The place gave even hardened tabloid hacks the creeps. The *Sun* called it "one of the most sinister places in Britain" – apart from Wapping, presumably. An epic feature by Frank Corless and Jan Disley in the *Mirror* began with the terrifying news that "Even in daylight, the huge rusting cast-iron gates of Hyde cemetery look cold and forbidding." Another piece by Corless and Disley had an equally flesh-creeping *mise en scène*: "The long shadow of killer Dr Harold Shipman hung over the small town of Hyde last night..." Their colleague Brian Reade described Hyde as "the focal point for evil". But the *Daily Mail*, eccentric as ever, thought it a "quiet little town".

In the *Express*, Dr Theodore Dalrymple opined that "what we know about him [Shipman] is quite possibly the tip of an iceberg". The *Mirror* added that the number of known victims "may be just the tip of the iceberg". How big a berg? The *Sun*: "HE KILLED 141." *Daily Mail*: "150: The Chilling Death Toll of Dr Shipman." *Express*: "SHIPMAN: DID HE MURDER 1,500?"

Whatever the tally, one thing is certain. As the *Mirror*, *Guardian*, *Daily Star*, *Daily Record*, *Belfast Newsletter*, *Stoke Sentinel*, *Edinburgh Evening News*, *Bristol Evening Post*, *Birmingham Post*, *Coventry Evening Telegraph* and *Newcastle Journal* announced unanimously, Harold Shipman should henceforth be known as (shock! horror!)... "Dr Death".

IT'S GRIM UP NORTH LONDON

KNIFE & PACKER


I TELL YOU WHAT - I NEED A TALL CINNAMON-DUSTED MOCHA RIGHT NOW
YEAH... CAFFEINE... YUMYUM ... ANGORA SWEATER... SEMI-SKIMMED... YEAH
I JUST CAN'T HEAR YOU, JEZ - YOU'RE BREAKING UP IN HERE
I SAID...
BETTER LATTÉ THAN NEVER

SIGNAL FAILURES

Raiftrack Property Values

ALTHOUGH Railtrack admits its railways are short of capacity, such trifles as trains don't distract it from its core activity of building car parks and developing property.

Railtrack thinks capacity problems should be solved by cutting the number of trains. But it *is* willing to invest big money in some things: like £400m to transform London Bridge station into an office block and shopping centre with some platforms attached. While government bangs on about integrated transport, this scheme could make interchange between trains and buses less convenient for passengers.

Railtrack makes great play of its £165m rebuild of Leeds station (with some extra tracks), but so many shops have been created passengers have felt like impostors in a new shopping mall where there are huge queues for train tickets but none for coffee or books. In nearby Stourton Railtrack sold the freehold of the Leeds container depot to the highest bidder, an American property developer, despite claims that the sale could eventually force freight trains out of the depot.

Meanwhile, plans to switch travellers from cars to public transport in Aberdeen may be undermined by a 1,000-space car park and supermarket that could obliterate the city bus station and sever the railway to the harbour. The car park would suck thousands of extra cars into Aberdeen daily, but Railtrack isn't objecting: it is one of the two developers involved.

In smaller towns where there are no easy pickings Railtrack is dumping platform buildings that once provided shelter, toilets and other comforts for passengers. It doesn't vet buyers or attach covenants for safe maintenance. The building at Market Rasen, Lincs, was sold at a London auction last week without any land for access. Railtrack suggests the buyer could lease part of the council-funded station car park (already too small) from Central Trains.

At Templecombe, near Yeovil, Railtrack has built an underbridge too narrow for twin rail tracks even though this single-track mainline is inadequate for Exeter to Waterloo trains. The new bridge raises the cost of restoring the second track — vital if more passenger and freight trains are to run.

At Gerrards Cross, on the busy line out of Marylebone, Railtrack has given Tesco the nod to build a supermarket above the railway without leaving space underneath for additional tracks, which may be needed for future passenger and freight traffic even if the controversial Central Railway (from the Channel tunnel to the north) isn't built through Gerrards Cross. The private company that built the railway allowed room for extra tracks but more than a century later such forward planning is impossible.

Thank goodness the shadow strategic rail authority (SSRA) is now in place to ensure the longer-term needs of the railway are paramount. But hang on… isn't that the body now selling mothballed rail land to the highest bidders with no regard for future transport needs? Sadly it is.

The SSRA inherited British Rail's property board, which retained land after privatisation. After Labour came to power there was an outcry (*Eyes* 939 and 949) over sale of plots that were ideal for transport uses — freight terminals, new stations, bus-rail interchanges and reinstated lines. Labour reluctantly put a moratorium on the sales but has now reverted to the original Tory policy of putting short-term financial gain before transport strategy. Several hundred sites with rail potential could go to property developers for housing, offices and shopping centres — more lucrative than ancillary rail facilities — despite warnings from the rail industry that a lack of extra terminals would scupper Labour's policy of transferring freight from lorries to trains.

But all's well that ends well: money raised from selling potential freight terminals should fund the £5m prize money of an SSRA competition for, er, innovation in expanding rail freight.

'Dr B. Ching'

DOING THE ROUNDS

Life after Shipman

WHETHER the General Medical Council (GMC) can ever recover from the Shipman and Bristol heart tragedies remains to be seen, but the government's own attempts to prevent unacceptable lapses in the NHS are also floundering.

An expert study of the progress of clinical governance has discovered lack of leadership from health authorities and the department of health and inadequate funding, leaving another of Labour's big ideas "close to collapse".

As John Edwards, chair of the clinical effectiveness group at Poole Hospital trust, puts it: "We've all been told to have a baseline assessment in practice by April — but there's no advice about how to do it, so everyone has gone and done something different. It's hopeless."

Dr Neville Goodman, a consultant anaesthetist in Bristol, added: "I've seen lots of paperwork flying around, but little to suggest the NHS is improving."

Many doctors now have little faith in either the GMC's or the government's ability to regulate the profession. As Dr Bill Pickering writes: "One important reason that Shipman got away with it for so long was because he knew that in the NHS, and in general practice in particular, doctors can do more or less what they like. They call it 'clinical freedom' and cherish it. No one (except the law) can meaningfully challenge their actions, and then only if they are found out. Medical ethics do not include commenting on another doctor's practice, nor do they insist upon an open mentality. The 'self-regulation' of doctors is, therefore, equivalent to no regulation."

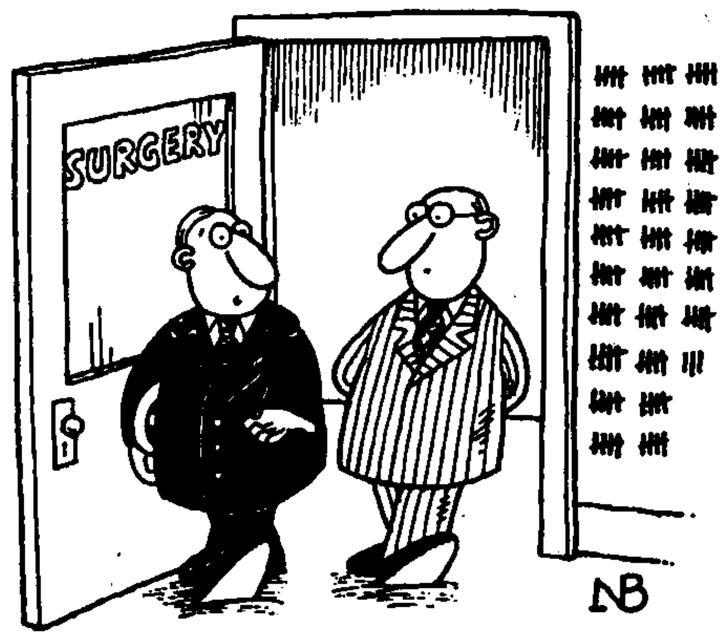
Pickering points out that most medical disasters start with single errors or near misses, and yet they only come to light much further down the line when many more mistakes have been allowed to occur. Even then, it needs "the strident clamour of patients or the press" to get near the truth. "So-called medical regulatory bodies, such as the GMC, royal colleges, or local medical personnel, have been of singular irrelevance. Had it been left to them, many recent disasters would be continuing yet."

Pickering believes it is not hard to spot bad practice given the right mechanism. "The only way to exact basic clinical standards is to have a person in each district of the country undisguisedly looking for sub-optimal clinical practice, working within an Independent Medical Inspectorate. Each inspector should be informed (a doctor) and impartial (paid from outside the NHS). It is a grave error to believe the fashionable political line that sprinkling lay assessors around is the whole solution. They are medically uninformed. By contrast, an independent inspectorate, by being not of the NHS brotherhood, is both informed and impartial."

But how would it work? "The inspectorate will glean its information from any source, including whistle blowers and patient complaints. All clinical complaints, plus a copy of the written response and explanation to the patient from the doctor, will pass across the inspectorate's desk. This will press medical personnel into prompt, open and accurate explanations. If indicated, the inspectorate would examine the medical records and if sub-standard clinical practice is evident, it will swiftly inform the doctor and the regulatory bodies. Its very presence will force all doctors to examine their practice. Clinical standards may be expected to quickly rise. Expensive legal defence costs and awards are likely to drop. Above all, patients can be sure that their doctors are, at last, meaningfully clinically accountable."

Dr Pickering's proposals are the best M.D. has come across. For more detail, contact him via wgpi@hotmail.com.

M.D.



"It's easy with hindsight to say our suspicions should have been aroused"

DOWN ON THE FARM

A COURTROOM at the law courts was recently crammed with some 40 lawyers, some on fees of up to £1,200 a day, for the latest instalment of what is rapidly becoming one of the longest-drawn-out and most costly farces in British legal history.

This is the "group action" in which more than 1,000 sheep farmers and others are suing several government departments and some of the world's most powerful pharmaceutical companies for serious damage done to their health by organo-phosphorus chemicals.

On the instructions of the legal aid board, all victims of OP poisoning wanting to sue for compensation have been forced to join together in this single action, which seems destined to drag its weary way through the courts for years to come. On one side in the meeting on 20 January to discuss legal points before Master Miller were Stephen Irwin QC and Patrick Allen of Hodge, Jones and Allen, appointed by the legal aid board to represent the 1,000 victims. On the other side were 36 lawyers representing chemical companies and their government allies.

On paper the defendants risk losing astronomic sums. In just one OP case back in 1997, an American musician permanently damaged by OP spraying in a Hong Kong concert hall was awarded nearly £2m damages against the chemical giant Ciba-Geigy and its co-defendants. They were said to have spent over £35m fighting it.

Some victims now joined in the British group action have already been involved in legal proceedings for up to five years or more. And although neither the legal aid board nor the firms of solicitors involved are prepared to admit how much taxpayers' money has so far gone down the drain, it is estimated the total bill to date on OP cases cannot be less than £10m.

Some indication of how usefully this money has been spent can be seen from the experience of Gary Coomber, a Kent sheep farmer ruled technically dead in 1992 when his heart stopped after exposure to OP sheep dip. Mr Coomber, who suffered permanent heart damage, won such impressive scientific support for his case, including that of one of the world's top heart experts, that by 1995 he was tipped to be the first British OP victim to win an action for damages.

In 1999, four years later, after his lawyers Alan Care of Leigh, Day and Richard Barr of Dawbarns (later of Hodge, Jones and Allen) had between them managed to assemble no fewer than 80 files of documents, the legal aid board decided it could no longer continue to fund the Coomber case. By the time it was dropped, the total bill to taxpayers had run out at £174,790.84p, including £30,112 plus VAT for barristers, £20,000 for "disbursements" and £101,675.11p for the solicitors.

When recently sent a copy of this bill by Patrick Allen, Mr Coomber was interested to note that £5,349.11p plus VAT had been included simply for the man who had spent 54 hours drawing up the bill. But he was also informed by Mr Allen that if he "eventually succeeded in obtaining any damages", the legal aid board would of course have first claim on any money awarded. In other words, even though the combined work of all these laywers over six years had achieved precisely nothing, should Mr Coomber find a lawyer who could do a more effective job, any damages for his permanent heart-damage would first have to pay the fees for six years of wasted time.

The only OP victim so far awarded damages by the high court was James Hill, whose health was destroyed by pesticides in a grain store. Every penny of the £50,000 he was awarded in 1997 has gone to the lawyers.

'Even Newer Muckspreader'

ROTTEN BOROUGHS

ANOTHER ROUND of council elections looms in May, and up and down the land local parties are busy selecting — and deselecting — their candidates. Labour's "Project 2000" aims to ensure that only the names of the ablest and best go forward. We looked at some councils to see how the process is progressing...

MODEL CITIZENS?

KNOWSLEY borough council took the unusual step last month of setting up an exhibition stand in the Commons lobby as part of the noxious Merseyside authority's endeavour to remarket itself as a model of Blairite respectability, rather than a virtual one-party dictatorship characterised by victimisation, unaccountability and dodgy land deals (see *Eyes passim ad nauseam*).

Notably absent though were details of the criminal pasts of two of council leader Jim Keight's close colleagues.

Cllr Charlie Preston, now deputy chairman of the health committee, was convicted in 1982 for assault and burglary and given a five-year prison sentence. Then aged 22, he was one of four men who beat up 64-year-old James Longworth in his bedroom while demanding his money. Passing sentence at Liverpool crown court, the judge said it was one of the worst burglary cases he had come across.

In 1991 Cllr Mike Kearns, who now presides over the panel determining the suitability of candidates to stand as Labour councillors, was found guilty of assaulting fellow Labour councillor Eddie Robb. His sentence of community service was later replaced by a two-year conditional discharge. Kearns falsely told the local Labour party that he had won an appeal against his conviction, rather than simply having persuaded the court to vary his sentence. Kearns went on to extract revenge on Robb by having him deselected as a Labour candidate.

He was much more charitable in 1997 when Steve Bannister, a councillor for the same ward as Keight, was sentenced to 15 months in prison on eight counts of indecent assault against a 12-year old girl (*Eye* 930). Kearns provided a character reference for Bannister, saying what a thoroughly good egg he was.

● **REGIONAL officers have rejected appeals against deselection by two of Labour's South Tyneside councillors: Mary Fairley, 75, and Mavis Johnson, 57. The women are baffled at their sudden unsuitability, but suspect it may have more than a little to do with their ages.**

No such impediment arises in the case of a younger woman, Nancy Maxwell, who has made it on to the panel of candidates. The fact that Maxwell was sacked as a senior administrative officer with the GMB union in 1996 for falsifying her expenses was presumably a plus — useful experience for a Labour councillor in the North-east, after all.

KNIGHT WATCH

LABOUR'S local government supremo Howard Knight writes to say that the suspension of candidate selection meetings in West Lancashire reported in *Eye* 993 had "absolutely nothing at all" to do with Francis Williams, the auditor who brought to light serious financial irregularities in local party accounts and in the return of election expenses of West Lancashire MP Colin Pickthall (*Eyes passim*). If not, why not? (The meetings in question, it turns out, were suspended because the local party had broken the rules by not including any women as potential candidates. Very "new" Labour.)

But what of Williams? We asked Knight if he was happy that Williams had suffered the standard reward of whistleblowers who bring to light questionable practices in the Labour party — ostracism and being barred from the list of council candidates. He did not say. West Lancashire, on Knight's long list of "dysfunctional" local parties, is now in the absurd position of having more vacancies than candidates for the May elections, yet will not accept as a candidate a man whose only offence is to have pursued the truth.

● **SINCE the last *Eye*'s story about Marie Lane, the Doncaster councillor who was barred from being a Labour candidate after blowing the whistle on "a culture where senior councillors were at the beck and call of certain developers", an appeal panel has heard her case and — to some astonishment in Donny — reinstated her.**

QUEER STREET

MANCHESTER'S annual Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras is not just an excuse for a massive party — it is also a major fundraising event for Aids charities. The city's gay community is therefore understandably up in arms because last year not a penny went to good causes, owing to financial mismanagement.

Last week the "Campaign for Accountability over Mardi Gras 99" held a candlelit vigil outside the town hall demanding a response to a list of questions concerning what went wrong. The city council denies any responsibility and is directing all complaints to the company that organised the event, "Mardi Gras 98". But the directors of this company have since resigned, including Pat Karney, a prominent Labour councillor. The council always has a strong profile at the Mardi Gras, which is attended by the lord mayor and other senior councillors, and would have been quick to take credit — had any money been made.

Campaigners argue that the event failed because Mardi Gras 98 had no proper business plan in place. How odd that this was not noticed by the consultants who were hired to do the company's book-keeping, none other than... Manchester city council finance department.

DEAF ERYC

DARRYL STEPHENSON, bumptious chief executive of East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC), has done it again.

After the case of the unwanted Tesco in Beverley (*Eyes passim*), "Deaf Eryc" (as the council is known to locals) is pressing ahead with another gruesome, unwanted development. This time the victims are the inhabitants of the small east coast town of Hornsea, who are about to see a cramped development of 27 houses spring up in the grounds of a former old peoples' home in the town centre, despite the near unanimous opposition of the townsfolk.

They are particularly riled that a) no minutes exist to show precisely how councillors voted on the scheme; and b) after it was approved, Stephenson kindly knocked more than £40,000 off the sale price to the developers.

Meanwhile ERYC's investment manager C.R. Barton has sent an illuminating reply to the Campaign Against Arms Trade, who had sought confirmation of its research into investments in arms companies held by the council and its pension scheme. "As we do not disclose our holdings to third parties I am unable to provide you with the information you require," he writes helpfully, above a prominent logo which reads: "Opening up local government".

● **TORY councillors in Brent are taking a relaxed attitude towards the tabloid exploits of their London mayoral candidate, Steven Norris. Group whip Cllr Reg Colwill tells the *Eye* he intends to take no action over an outraged letter he has received from fellow Tory councillor Sean O'Sullivan, who has detected a certain lack of respect for the would-be mayor. What is O'Sullivan so steamed up about? "I am writing to express my concern at the elected mayoral candidate... being repeatedly described as 'Shagger Norris' by Cllr Bob Blackman... [at] the group meeting on Monday," he fumes.**

Pseuds Corner

I treated designing shoes like designing buildings. A church is a good example of a building that's more than a building. Churches need to evoke emotion. They make you feel small, make something else feel bigger, more glorious. There's a lot of tricks in architecture do that, and that's what I brought to footwear.

TINKER HATFIELD
(creator of Nike trainers to die for)
Guardian

And books to me are people: they speak, hide themselves, pout and quarrel on the shelves, collect

dust deliberately to blow in your face in revenge for neglect, then suddenly smile and curl up cosily in your lap. They supply a gregariousness I do not always feel towards humans.

PAUL JOHNSON
The Spectator

I changed when I read Gloria Steinem. She had this way of inserting the male pronoun into various situations instead of the female pronoun. I found myself assenting to the truth of that and immediately feeling the better for it. That's a revolution in consciousness. The novels I'd written before seemed full of unexamined stuff that I had taken on trust.

MARTIN AMIS
Standard

"Equinox" by John Coltrane
Bip-bip bop. Bip-bop... *plunk*. The rhythm section forms itself into fat droplets, like drips from a tap plunging into a plastic watering can, hollow-sounding and unresonant. It's a cyclical, potentially infinite, pattern. Coltrane, on tenor sax, noses around this leak for eight minutes until he's satisfied that he's got to the bottom of the problem. Then he stops. Uncharacteristically, he is careful throughout, thoughtful and enquiring, not Herculean or ecstatic. This is the music that accompanied the birth of my son, and it's what will make my funeral a groove (Jazz, like life, is mostly plumbing).

NICK COLEMAN
Independent

Under Galliano's magical guidance, the diverse threads were woven into a breathtaking and daring experiment in making the old new again; imagine Posh Spice dressed as Gloria Swanson dressed as Charlie Chaplin and you get the picture.

HILARY ALEXANDER
Daily Telegraph

Readers may remember the Connect with Ford TV advert, which shows each Ford Feature Model racing across the desert towards a huge ravine. As they draw closer to the edge a bridge appears under the cars' wheels, enabling them all to drive safely to the other side. The message is clear – trust in Ford, and the company will see you safely through the car-buying process.

The Ford Magazine

The important thing when DJ-ing is to create a wave of emotion, like making love to a beautiful woman. You can't just take her, and that's it. You have to go slowly, softly, you have to court her, caress her, work at it, because making love is an art. Playing records well is also an art.

DJ CLAUDIO COCCOLUTO
Standard

CONTRIBUTORS: Theresa O'Shea, Colin Bradbury, Janice James, James Taylor, Helen Tucker, Peter Illsley, Carole Powell.

£10 paid for entries

Letters

Private Eye

Sally forthright

Sir,

I deeply resent the disgraceful lies from one of your contributors which you saw fit to publish as your lead story last issue. Do you not check your stories AT ALL — or have an in-house lawyer to do so?

If I had really collaborated with any of the publications mentioned in your piece, I would no doubt have been paid a great deal of money, in which case I would now be languishing on a beach in the Caribbean — not sitting in lawyers' offices in WC1.

I may have to cancel all my Christmas gift subscriptions to your scurrilous rag. I have always enjoyed perusing it myself, but I did think at least some of your stories might be vaguely true — now I wonder.

Under the circumstances, I think a grovelling apology would be in order – only two sentences in your entire piece were correct. You might perhaps care to send me a gigantic bouquet of flowers, as other editors have, by way of atonement?

Yours faithfully,
SALLY FARMILOE.

(No. Ed.)

Vaccine and not heard

Sir,

Your excellent report "A Right Balls-Up" in Eye 994 points out that the vaccine in the mid and late 1980s which used bovine material was DTP (Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis). It's worth noting that since the earliest cases of nv-CJD, scientists have been puzzled by the high proportion of young victims, many of whom were in their late teens or early 20s, and some of whom were vegetarian.

Given that children are first vaccinated with DTP at eight weeks and receive their final vaccination at about four years, and given that the incubation period for nv-CJD is about 10-20 years, isn't transmission by vaccine the most plausible explanation for the youth of many of the victims?

Yours faithfully,
KIM THOMAS (DR),

Welwyn Garden City.

BBsC?

Sir,

John Birt was not the first person to study engineering before running the BBC (Square Eyes, Eye 994). John Reith was.

Yours faithfully,
IVAN BURGESS,

Via e-mail.

Wallis collection

Sir,

I fear your readers have been misinformed about my forthcoming book, "Dancing With The Devil".

In it I liberally acknowledge the work of Caroline Blackwood and Joe Bryan; indeed it was their accounts which first alerted me to the mad, bad Jimmy Donahue. However, neither of these authors examined the subject particularly closely, nor were they able to discover, as I have done, that the Duchess of Windsor engaged in sexual congress with Donahue, a notorious homosexual, over a four-year period. The sex, I might add, is only a part of a longer and more diverse biography of one of the most provocative figures of the 20th century.

Those who have read the precursory works will agree, I feel sure, that a biography of Jimmy Donahue was long overdue. I hope I have done him justice.

Yours,
CHRISTOPHER WILSON,

Salisbury, Wilts.

Lookalike

Sting

Archer

Sir,

Have any of your readers noticed the remarkable similarity between well-known party host Jeffrey Archer and pop singer Sting? Are they by any chance related?

JOHN HOWSON,

Colchester, Essex.

A pedant writes...

Sir,

Re: Cock-Up Corner (Eye 994). As a Heathrow immigration official I fear I must resort to pedantry in order to restore the honour of an anonymous colleague. In your piece you state that a person issued a six-month visit visa in Hanoi had their stay reduced to three months upon arrival at Heathrow.

It is a common misconception that the issue of a visa entitles the holder to six months entry in the United Kingdom whereas, in actual fact, the holder may only enter the country within that period. The actual length of stay permitted is always decided at the point of entry (ie, Heathrow) and in the case of a visitor this is for a maximum of six months. The immigration officer in question was therefore not a party to this particular cock-up.

Yours etc,
JAMES HIGHAM,

Woking, Surrey.

Grounded

Sir,

Re: "Fumes What A Shocker!" 994 — interesting item, but your aviation correspondent needs a decent book on airliners, because the last paragraph in his/her article is inaccurate.

The BAe 146 is not "the only jetliner powered by turbofans" — practically EVERY airliner in the world is powered by turbofans.
Turbofans are turbojet engine with bloody big fans at the front. Turbofans are much more fuel-efficient than plain turbojets, as well as being quieter.
And another thing! Most helicopters are powered by turboshafts — essentially turbojets with a power take off to drive the rotor.

Bugger! I'm going to win Eye 995's sad bastard of the week award, aren't I!

MARK SMITH,

Bridgwater, Somerset.

Farage farrago

Sir,

I was fascinated to read in your publication that I have enough influence to remove people from television programmes.

I contacted Question Time to suggest a varied panel of spokespeople. I was confronted with a member of staff who told me that when the programme had temporarily delayed Nigel Farage MEP's appearance due to matters beyond their control concerning Jeffrey Archer, the Question Time office was bombarded with "over the top" irate and aggressive letters from Farage supporters accusing the programme of being a pro European Brussels conspiracy, to bowing to the wishes of their arch enemy Edward Heath, who was also due to appear on the same programme and threatening to report them to the Broadcasting Standards Commission.
At no time did I suggest they remove Farage from a programme or was it indicated to me that they were going to do so.

Nor do I work for Michael Holmes, who is now the former leader of UKIP — thanks to Farage and his supporters machinations. I am merely a concerned individual who wants this country to withdraw from Europe.

Sincerely,
JANET GIRSMAN,

St Albans, Herts.

LUVVIES

For an actress who does far more television than theatre, she has a healthy respect for the latter. "After a while, I have a physical need to do theatre. There's a muscularity about acting that rarely exists on television, and I was beginning to feel that I can't really take myself seriously if I don't do theatre."

GERALDINE JAMES
Time Out

"Hollywood can be very heartless. Every year you work in Hollywood takes a year off your soul."

CALISTA FLOCKHART
Bristol Evening Post

An occasional column devoted to gems from the acting profession. £10 paid for entries.

Eye eye

Sir,

I couldn't help noticing that this morning on Capital Radio's breakfast show they were running a Lies and Dome Lies competition — which seems to bear an uncanny resemblance to the cartoon in your recent edition.

I hope you are flattered that such an eminent London institution has chosen to take your ideas on board.

Yours,
CHARLOTTE LITTLEBOY,

Via e-mail.

SUPERMODELS

KERBER

I-SPY *Edinburgh*

Submitted by John Harrison. £10 paid for similar submissions. *(SAE required for return of photographs. No transparencies.)*

Crystal Ballistic

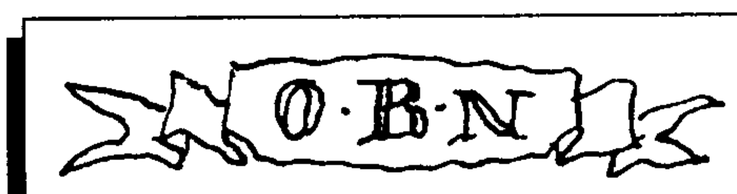
Sir,

I thoroughly agree with Robbie Stoakes in his "Crystal Balls" (Eye 994) that Crystal Palace should be reborn in the 21st century. We need councils to tell people what they think they want. The youth of this country are crying out for healthy indoor pursuits, relaxing in darkened rooms watching the latest Hollywood blockbuster, dancing and drinking until 2am, every day of the year. And think of the wonderful hi-tech legacy that we shall be leaving our children and grand-children. No necessity to be "outside" in those nasty elements; too hot, too cold, too windy, too wet — from home-to-car-to-mall-to-multiplex and home again.

Multiplexes, just like shopping malls, are the latest hi-tech phenomenon and with a five-year payback period it has to make economic sense — just think — thousands of people spending their money, 365 days of the year, 7am till 2am. All you've lost is a bit of park. The downside is, of course, the traffic chaos and pollution that these people will bring, but no big deal, we're used to gridlock up here already. The spectacular views across London and the south east from the car park in the sky will make it all worthwhile.

Yours sincerely,
SUZANNE ELKIN,

London SE21.



Diana Madill: What mistakes has Tony Blair made in his first 1,000 days?

Barbara Follett: I don't think he's sung his own praises enough.

Westminster With Diana Madill
BBC2

Nominated by Brian Tottle.

£10 paid for entries put forward for the Order of the Brown Nose.

The History Man

Sir,

If it hasn't been done already, I can solve your Vandeleur writer mystery. The author of these letters has taken his name from the commander of the 4th British Brigade, Anglo-Allied army OB, 1815, Maj-Gen Sir James Vandeleur. This also explains the subject matter, ie Waterloo. The writer of these letters would be amused to see them printed without any connection being made – a bit like writing one on "stuffy bunkers", signing it, A. Hitler. It only proves my theory as a mature student doing a history degree, that academics have too much time on their hands.

Best regards,
ARTHUR WESLEY
(Sorry, James Falkus, Cranleigh),

Via e-mail.

"Belinda, will you make me the happiest man in the world and divorce me?"

Colemanballs

£10 paid for contributions

"As he grows into his size he'll make a very good defender."
Guest, BBC Radio 5 Live
(K.C. Bridges)

"Relax. You are in the middle of 30 minutes of uninterrupted music, on Classic FM."
Classic FM
(Martin Gough)

"Two late goals, both in the last twenty minutes..."
JON CHAMPION, BBC1
(Michael O'Fee)

"Dunfermline have a difficult month ahead over the coming 2 or 3 weeks."
DICK CAMPBELL, Radio Scotland
(Steven Mill)

Jim Davidson: *From which Greek building were the Elgin Marbles taken?*
Contestant: *The Apocalypse.*
BBC1
(A. Cooper)

HOM SAP

AUSTIN

Letter from the **Philippines**
from Our Own Correspondent

IF countries get the kind of leaders they deserve, we Filipinos must be very bad people indeed. We still suffer the scars of looting and abuse that marked the Marcos years – a period of US-backed cronyism, corruption and brutality that ensured the prosperity that swept through every other country in the region passed us by. Now the same style of government seems to be back in fashion.

Our president, self-proclaimed champion of the poor and ex-tough guy film actor, Joseph "Erap" Ejercito Estrada, is in fact a protégé of the Marcos era who "served" as mayor San Juan, one of our biggest, most miserable, cities for almost 20 years. He complains bitterly when accused by the press of leading us back to the path of ruin and decay. He insists all such criticism is politically motivated, part of a plot by his predecessor, Fidel Ramos, and wealthy business interests to discredit his administration.

Every opinion poll, though, shows his popularity is plummeting. Despite promises of change, nearly two years after Erap's election victory, most Filipinos still face desperate poverty, with many forced to stay in mushrooming slums. Far too many of us are living in and around waste tips... and worse.

The police force is once more a rogue collection of licensed bandits, guilty of a host of abuses. The economy is in a mess, with a widening budget deficit, sluggish growth and ever more blatant incidents of dubious dealings at the top. Our leader campaigned on the slogan of "Erap for the poor". But it is pretty clear that what Erap is mostly for is his friends, family and the seriously rich.

Take, for instance, the case of BW Resources, until recently an anonymous company owned by Dante Tan, a close friend of Erap. Last year, BW's share price rocketed from just a few pesos to more than 100 in a matter of weeks, before an official announcement that Stanley Ho, the Macao-based gambling czar, was buying a controlling stake in the company. Shortly thereafter, the share price collapsed.

The securities and exchange commission launched an investigation into possible insider trading. In an indication of how things work here, the commission's president, Perfecto Yasay, last month told a senate hearing that Erap had tried to influence the outcome of the inquiry, only to appear on television a few hours later, insisting that his earlier comments had been incorrect and that there had been no evidence of any wrongdoing in the BW affair. We can only speculate as to why foreign fund managers chose to withdraw $400m from the local stock market at precisely the moment the BW saga began to unravel.

Then there is Danding Cojuanco, Marcos' main bagman who helped bankroll Erap's presidential campaign. Days after Erap's victory, Danding was able to regain control of a bank and a host of other assets seized after the former dictator's hurried departure in 1986.

Efforts by the US justice department to extradite Mark Jimenez, a presidential adviser on Latin America, in connection with tax evasion and illegal contribution to Bill Clinton's re-election bid four years ago have been thwarted. Close relatives are caught up in scams from school books contracts to import duty evasion. Tales of dubious property deals are rife.

Then there is Erap's perpetual political indecisiveness. In November he announced an impending cabinet reshuffle. In December he announced it would be delayed for a month. It finally took place only when Edgar Espiritu, the well-respected finance minister, resigned in protest at what he called the "undue influence" of the president's friends. Ministers, though, rarely meet, with Erap instead favouring a "midnight cabinet" made up of his late-night mah jong-playing crowd that includes some of our most dissolute citizens.

Erap, widely believed to have amassed a fortune running into hundreds of millions of dollars, brushes aside our mounting discontent and continues to act and talk as if he were still back in the movies, when everything came right in the end, with the good guys winning in a protracted gunfight. Unfortunately, back in real life, he seems to have lost the plot.

FUNNY OLD WORLD

COMPILED BY VICTOR LEWIS-SMITH

● "Of course I will fight any attempt to strike me off," declared dentist Dr Noel Campbell, as he prepared to defend himself against allegations of professional misconduct in Melbourne. "I am the victim of a vendetta by the dental establishment, and why? Simply because I choose to treat facial pain by coming up with the brilliant idea of administering ozone through the rectum. In years to come, I will be seen as the Louis Pasteur of my day, but until then this is a case of pearls before swine."

But a spokesman for the Victorian Dental Board later told reporters that "Dr Campbell is guilty of serious professional misconduct because he repeatedly performed the intra-rectal administration of ozone on female patients, although there is no dental or medical basis for such treatment. One woman patient, who had been suffering from facial pain for several months, was advised by Dr Campbell that a course of rectal ozone treatments might help. She accepted fifteen such treatments in his surgery over a three-week period, before quitting because her facial pain had not lessened. When she later visited another dentist and discovered that the administration of rectal ozone is not a recognised dental procedure, she complained to us. Dr Campbell is also charged with prescribing unregistered drugs, and with allowing his nurses and his friends to practice dentistry in his surgery on unsuspecting patients." (The Age [Melbourne], 11/12/99. Spotter: Dr S.D. Hamann)

—●—

● *"This is the first time I have ever heard of human urine causing such problems anywhere in the world," reported Mouchel Project Manager Raymond Hobbs, after inspecting the Puente Duarte Bridge in Santo Domingo (capital of the Dominican Republic). "It seems that there are few public conveniences in Santo Domingo, so pedestrians and cyclists crossing the bridge regularly relieve themselves against the four steel towers. After many years of being doused with urine, many of the rivet heads have completely disappeared, and I have discovered major urine-linked corrosion below deck level: severe corrosion in the hangers, at the end of the suspended span, and even worse corrosion of the connections between one of the transverse girders and the ends of the mainspan truss.*

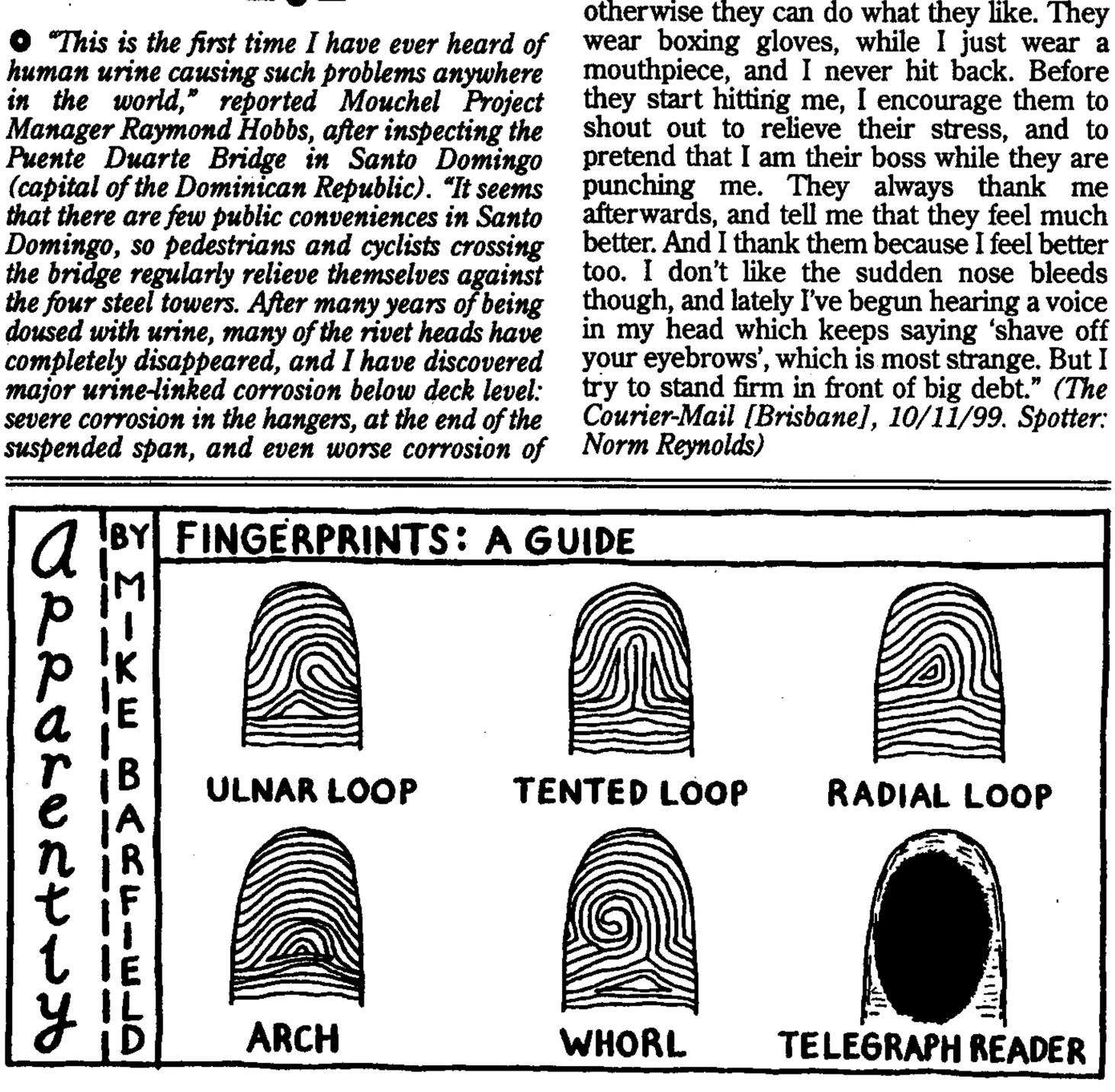
"Above deck level, I identified a distinctive tidemark at about waist height, with severe corrosion below, but virtually none above. This problem obviously dates back a long time, because there have been attempts to install splash plates, but they have not worked. As I say, this is the first time I have ever encountered such a problem with urine, but at least the smell made it easy to identify. I estimate the total repair bill at £15,000,000." (New Civil Engineer, January 2000. Spotter: Luc Koefman)

—●—

● "I am not doing this for money only," declared Akira Hareruya, as he prepared for another evening's work in Tokyo's entertainment district. "I want to teach my customers to live their lives more positively, instead of being depressed, and they always feel much better after they've used me as a human punching bag. But it is also true that I owe the bank 150,000,000 yen, and would like to repay my debt without declaring bankruptcy."

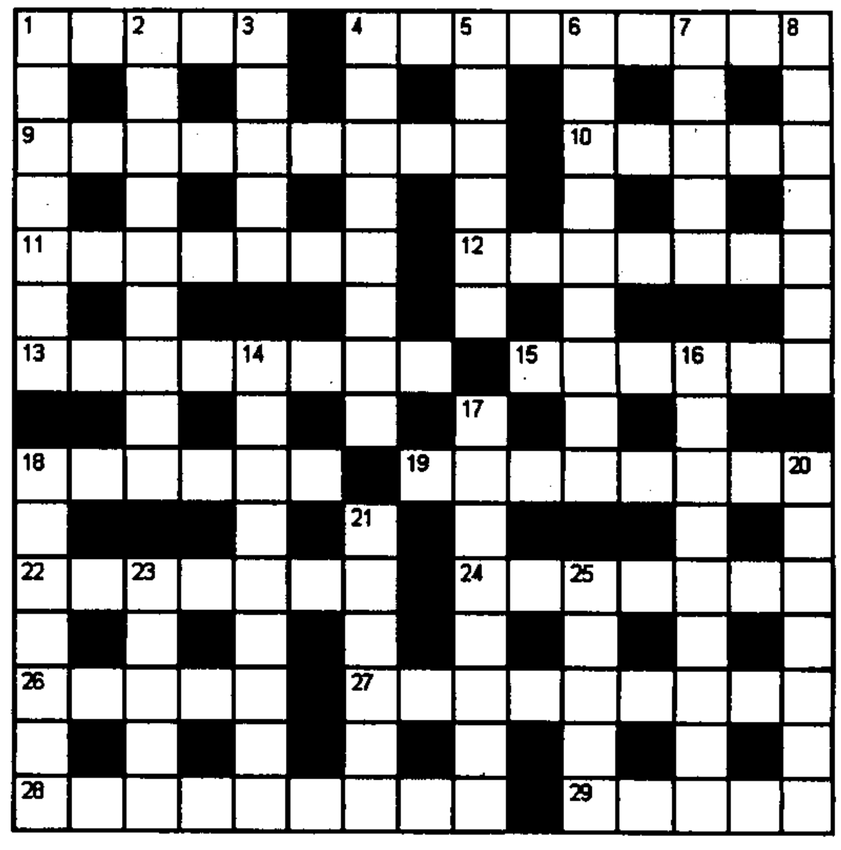
For the past year, ex-professional boxer Hareruya has been earning money in Tokyo bars by allowing people to hit him as much as they want and as hard as they can. "I charge

males 1,000 yen per minute, and women 500 yen, and make about 30,000 yen a night on average. I have been hit by thousands of people, but I can take it. They are not allowed to hit below the belt or when I am down, but otherwise they can do what they like. They wear boxing gloves, while I just wear a mouthpiece, and I never hit back. Before they start hitting me, I encourage them to shout out to relieve their stress, and to pretend that I am their boss while they are punching me. They always thank me afterwards, and tell me that they feel much better. And I thank them because I feel better too. I don't like the sudden nose bleeds though, and lately I've begun hearing a voice in my head which keeps saying 'shave off your eyebrows', which is most strange. But I try to stand firm in front of big debt." *(The Courier-Mail [Brisbane], 10/11/99. Spotter: Norm Reynolds)*



EYE CROSSWORD 150

by Cyclops — *£100 prize*



ACROSS

1/15/22 Such a frosty atmosphere responsible for beastly idol's lack of balls? (5,6,7)
4 Duff ITV pollster left right out of stalemate election (5,4)
9 Party to the secret trendy article on Ken (2,3,4)
10 Jack put Kelvin on church body! (5)
11 Potential lifesavers, dry pants (3,4)
12 Labour's after little number that's easy (2,5)
13 Being observant, it could therefore be marzipan (8)
15 (see 1 ac.)
18 Boner gets member out of bed (4-2)
19 John Thomas, master pillock! (8)
22 (see 1 ac.)
24 Blair's opener: "Everything's improving" – right fiasco that proves to be (5-2)
26 (see 5)
27 Judge Baer a right tit, unfortunately (9)
28 Oh, puerile, doddery Edward Heath? (9)
29 Equals a tabloid editor, reportedly (5)

DOWN

1 This country smart-arse is without sex (7)
2 Radio Times nit-picker's after the head of Anna Sewell, Brian (3,6)
3 Queen Elizabeth's first involvement in wild bash (5)
4 Spill the beans repeatedly and then stir (4,4)
5/26 Donald Dewar, right to replace date, snarled "That's Jack Straw's baby!" (3,3,5)
6 Kate's kinky nylons, almost half gone, rustle (4,5)
7 Love to take speed and get on one's soap-box (5)
8 Build on the extremes of Lundy, getting in the way of excited member (7)
14 Palatable way to get rid of a persistent hack (5-4)
16 Is no laggard in hanging onto the police's authority? (5,4)
17 Country BMW re-styled with baize (8)
18 Intimidate then have sex with a western guy (7)
20 As the rapper would say, newspapers get a person down (7)
21 Label some megastar 'manic' (6)
23 Snake in the grass computer! (5)
25 Pissed but looking brilliant? (3,2)

£100 prize to first solution opened on 18.02.00. Entries to 'Crossword', Private Eye, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1V 5RG.

Solution to Crossword No. 149

Winner: MICHAEL BOLT

ACROSS: **1** Dr B Ching **5** (see 4) **10** Gofer **11** Think-tank **12** Anarchy **13** Arousal **14** Divot **16** Out of work **18** Goldwater **20** Totem **21** Vanilla **22** Resigns **24** Initiated **25** Pleat **26** Stooge **27** Victoria.

DOWN: **1** Dog-eat-dog **2** BAFTA **3** Haricot **4/5** Nitty-gritty **6** Rake-off **7** Transport **8** Yokel **9** (see 19) **15** Valentino **16** Outcasts **17** Kama Sutra **19/9** Walking disaster **20** Tosspot **21** Veins **22** Radii **23** Greer.

The Mirror, *Friday, February11, 2000*

DECOMMISSIONING 'UNDERWAY'

by Our Irish Correspondent **Sam Tex**

THERE was joy throughout Northern Ireland's paramilitary communities yesterday, as the long-anticipated decommission of the peace process finally got underway.

The hand-over of numerous small and medium Cabinet posts from the Assembly to London, and the destruction of a huge cache of copies of the Good Friday agreement signalled a much-welcomed return of hostilities to the streets of the province. A delighted spokesman for the IRA said, "We've waited a long time for this, but finally it looks like we can create a lasting war." The Protestant paramilitary organisations agreed. "Better war war than jaw jaw," said a joint statement. "Now we can happily work together with the republicans to get Ulster back to normal – ie, a state of armed siege."

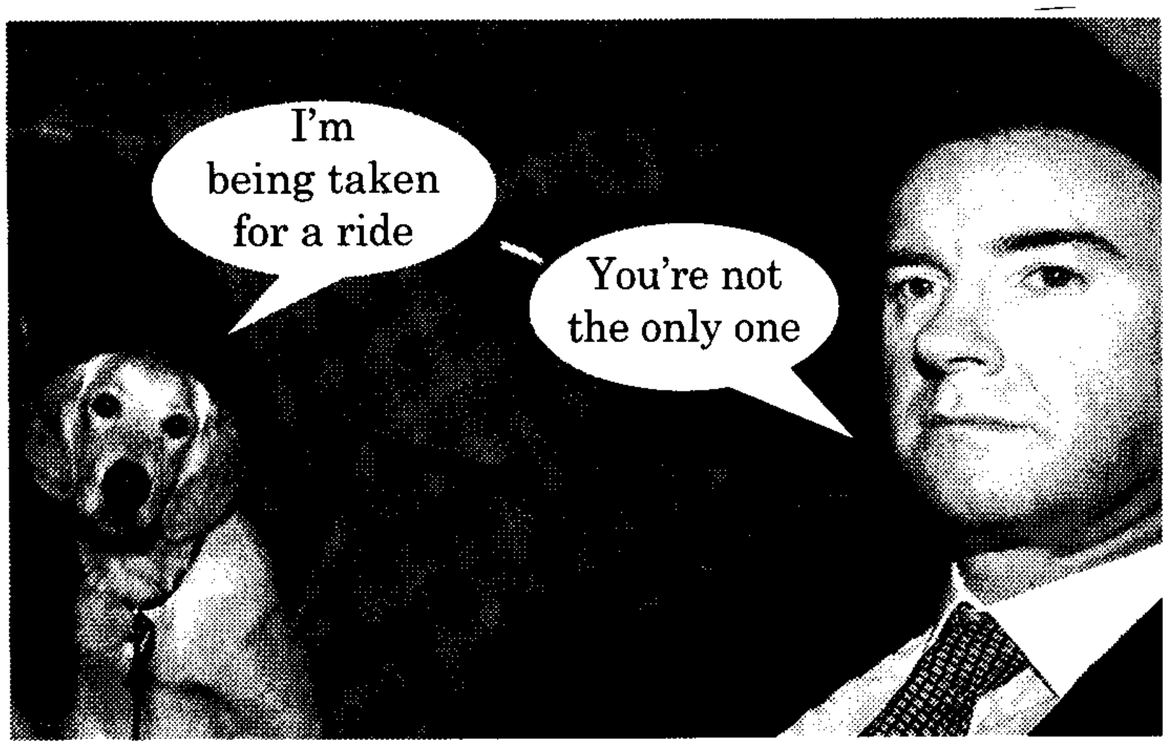
The general public were said to be disappointed, having largely voted against being murdered in a recent referendum, but *(continued until 2094)*

LATE NEWS

Sinn Fein Condemns Terrorists

SINN FEIN today condemned the bombing of a hotel in Belfast by a group calling themselves The Continuity IRA.

"These people are a small unrepresentative group who are attempting to dictate the political process by the use of terrorism. But enough of us." *(Reuters)*



City Slickers

ANIL WIND AND JAMES TIPWELL

PIERS MORE-GAIN!

OUR MATES down the city boozer tell us that it's time to get out of Trinity Mirror Holdings (owner of this paper). Apparently, the Editor is about to be fired for a bit of dirty dealing.

Naughty boy Piers Morgan is, we hear, in deep doo-doo after bunging a 20k wedge on a company ramped in this column! Pure coincidence we're sure, Piers, but **Slickers** reckon you're for the old tin-tack! The insider may soon become an outsider!

Tips And Bums!

UH-OH! More trouble for Trinity Mirror (owner of this paper) as two of their top columnists are caught "doing an Archer". Word on the street in the Square Mile is that Anil Wind and James Tipwell have been up to no good and are about to get the heave-ho as well as the Editor!

Three in one! That's what we call a Trinity – you can't believe in one of them, let alone three!

Time to bundle out, everyone, before you join them in the brown stuff!

Slickers' Tip

Don't get caught! Unlike us!

Crematorium plans put on back burner

Selkirk Advertiser

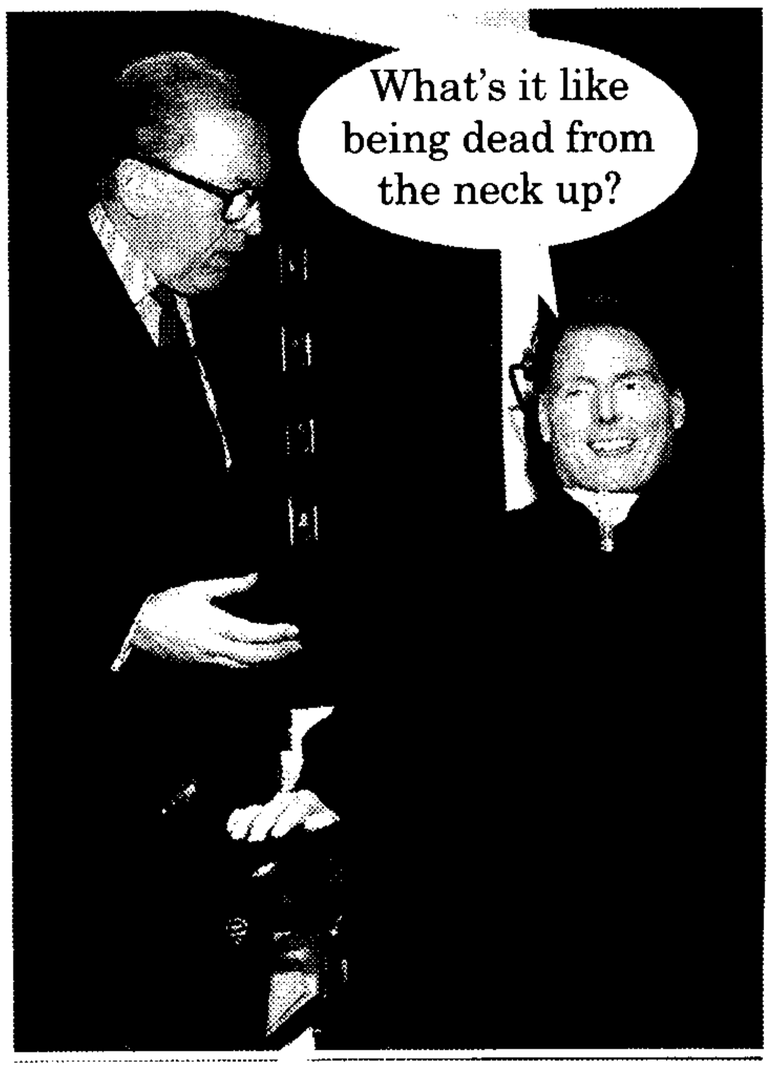
22.35 Made in America. La Loi du cœur. Téléfilm. Michael Dinner.

Le Monde

BOOT FAIR FLEE & CRAFT MARKET

Sevenoaks Chronicle

"We're all stars, mate, but some of us are looking in the gutter"



ST ALBION PARISH NEWS

Incumbent: Rev. A.R.P. Blair MA (Oxon)

Hullo!

I've been out and about in the parish this week, and some of you may have seen me – in my well-worn, brand new green wellington boots and Barbour jacket!

I'd heard on the grapevine – or should it be "gripevine" *(Thanks, Alastair, great joke!)* – that some members of our farming community think that they're getting a pretty raw deal these days.

So, hey! I thought, I'll go and look for myself. Talk to these guys, and show them that they're wrong!

And that's exactly what I did! And, you know, we had a very useful exchange of views!

They told me, "Vicar, we haven't got any money." And I said, "Sorry, I just don't believe you!"

And, anyway, even if they are poor – which they are not – then didn't Our Lord say "Blessed are the poor"? I mean, let's face it, everyone likes living in the countryside. It's much, much nicer than the town, particularly at weekends!

Just think of all the lovely walks you can go on, and the birds singing, and the sheep in the fields and the roaring fire blazing in the grate of a country pub!

So, honestly, what are all thse farmers complaining about, when they have a way of life that the rest of us can only envy?

Wasn't it Our Lord who said "All we

like sheep"? And we do! So the farmers can be jolly grateful that they can spend all their lives surrounded with sheep (even if they can't sell them!), while the rest of us have to stay in town and earn a living!

That was my message to our farmer friends, and I have to say that they were so impressed that they listened to me in complete silence, apart from the odd "Moo from the cows" – not, as the local paper had it, "Boo from the crowd"! I'm afraid this was a typical example of the kind of sloppy journalism which is becoming far too common nowadays, particularly when they are writing about the parish and its vicar!

Apparently, there was also an unpleasant incident at the Young Farmers Club dinner where a young lady threw a chocolate eclair at Mr Brown (not Gordon, unfortunately!). It was very upsetting for Nick and just went to prove that if these farmers can afford to lash out on expensive confectionery (rather than cheap Spanish rotten tomatoes) to throw at people, then they are obviously a lot better off than they try and pretend. No more bad manners, please!

Yours,

Tony

Clause For Thought!

There's been a lot of talk around the parish about Clause 28 in the PCC Guidelines for the teachers in our primary school. Obviously, we support the family unit and it is very important that we recognise that this is a vital building block for the community. However, this is not to say that we think the old-fashioned mum/dad/kids model is in any way superior to equally valid alternative life-styles. Look, let's not be judgemental here. In my view, judgemental people are just narrow-minded bigots who should get zero-tolerance from the rest of us. That's why Mr Blunkett has got it right when he says that we should take a long, hard look at those guidelines; and if we think this Clause 28 has no place in today's more tolerant society, then we would be quite right to give very careful thought to reconsidering the whole issue. T.B.

PARISH POSTBAG

Dear Vicar,

In the light of recent events, may I suggest that the stained glass window of St Gerry the Peacemaker should be removed from the North Transept where it was installed by the Vicar last year amid much premature rejoicing, and that this empty testament to hypocrisy should be placed instead in the nearest landfill site where it should be left to

Yours faithfully,
D. TRIMBLE (MR)
Dunnegotiatin, Shankhill Road.

The Editor reserves the right to cut all letters from representatives of the forces of conservatism for reasons of space. A.C.

To Remember In Your Prayers

● Mrs Mowlam, who has never been quite the same since her brain operation a few years back, and who is having difficulty coming to terms with the reduced role she is having to play in the running of the parish. I know Mo used to be a very popular lady, when we all thought the Mission to St Gerry's was going to be a great success. But if things are going wrong there now, I think we know who, alas, will have to end up taking the blame! T.B.

OODLES OF NOODLES!

"It's the Year of the Tony" says Cherie, as she celebrates Chinese New Year at local high street restaurant the Noo Lei Bar!

The Millennium Tent

An Important Announcement From Mr Falconer

■ Due to the huge success of our Millennium Tent project, and the large numbers of people buying tickets, we now need some more funds to keep the project going. We shall not, of course, be drawing on parish funds for this, which would be quite wrong. We will instead be using the proceeds of our weekly parish raffle. This money was always intended to be used for charitable purposes, and what could be more charitable than giving money to the Tent? As it says in the Good Book, "Charity begins at Dome"! *(Numbers, Ch. 60 Million)* C.F.

Another Important Announcement From Mr Falconer

■ Since writing the above we have decided that the Tent is such a success it needs a new organiser. That is not to say that Mrs Page has done a bad job! It is just as it says in the Bible: "A new broom always sweeps cleaner" *(Book of Lost Job, 7.15)*

So we'd like to thank Mrs Page for all her hard work and welcome Monsieur Michel Mouse who has kindly agreed to step in and sort out the appalling mess that Mrs Page has left.

Thanks, Jennie (for nothing!) C.F.

EU ATTACKS HAIDER'S 'DISGRACEFUL VIEWS'

by Our Brussels Staff **Dick Tatte**

EUROPEAN Union chiefs were today united in condemning the leader of the Austrian Freedom Party for what they called his "unacceptable political opinions".

Said one spokesman, "Herr Haider has openly admitted that he does not admire the European Union and has made no secret of his dislike of the Commission. This is disgraceful."

He continued angrily, "We don't mind him being a fascist and a Nazi apologist, but to claim that the EU has not been good for employment — it is an outrage!"

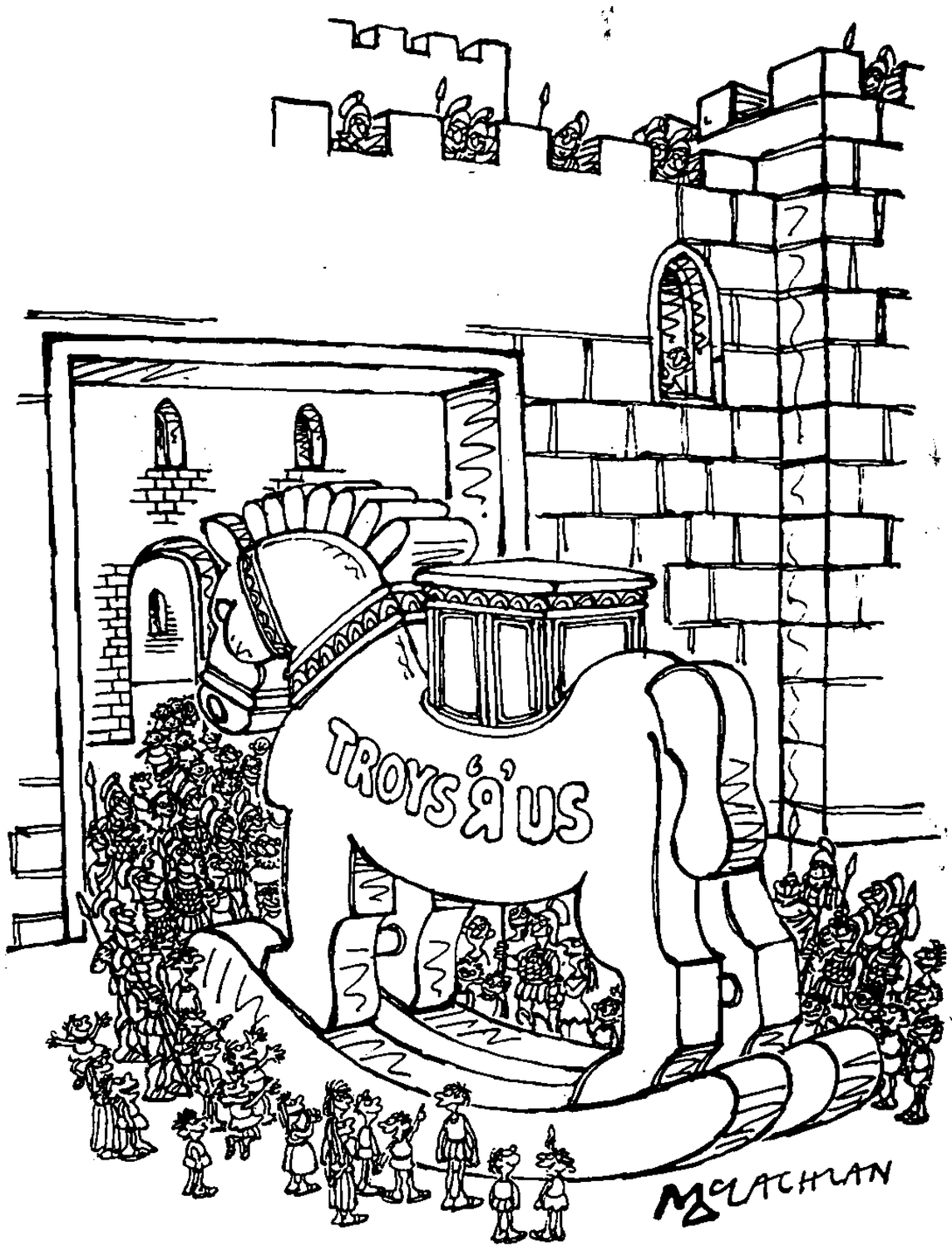
RESIGNATION SHOCKS PM

THE PRIME Minister has admitted he was just as shocked as the rest of the country by the resignation of Junior Defence Minister Peter Kilfoyle.

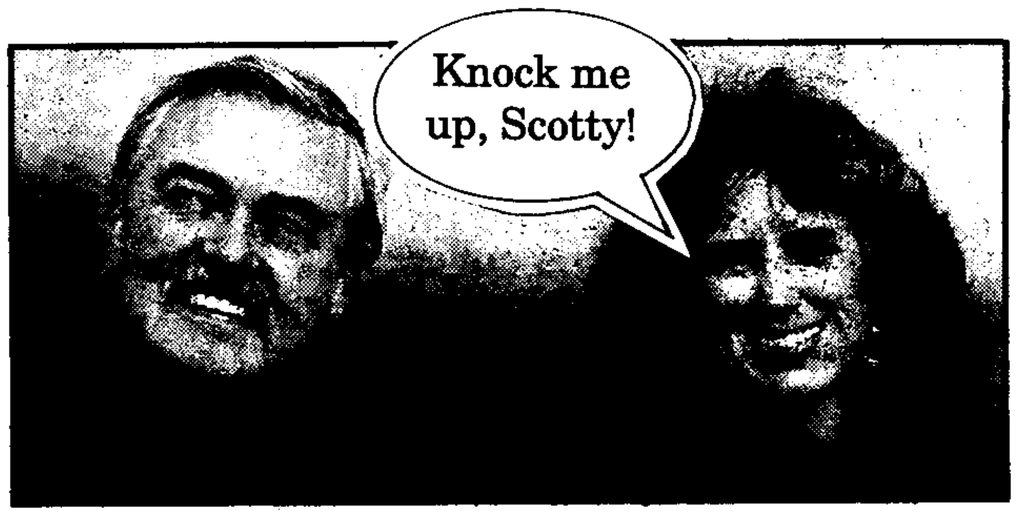
"I didn't know he was a Junior Defence Minister either," said a stunned *(cont. p. 94)*

ON OTHER PAGES

"Why this signals the end for New Labour" by **Charles Moore 8**
"Resignation leaves Blair dream shattered" by **Peter Hitchens 13**
More wishful thinking by **Tory Columnists 16-92**



STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

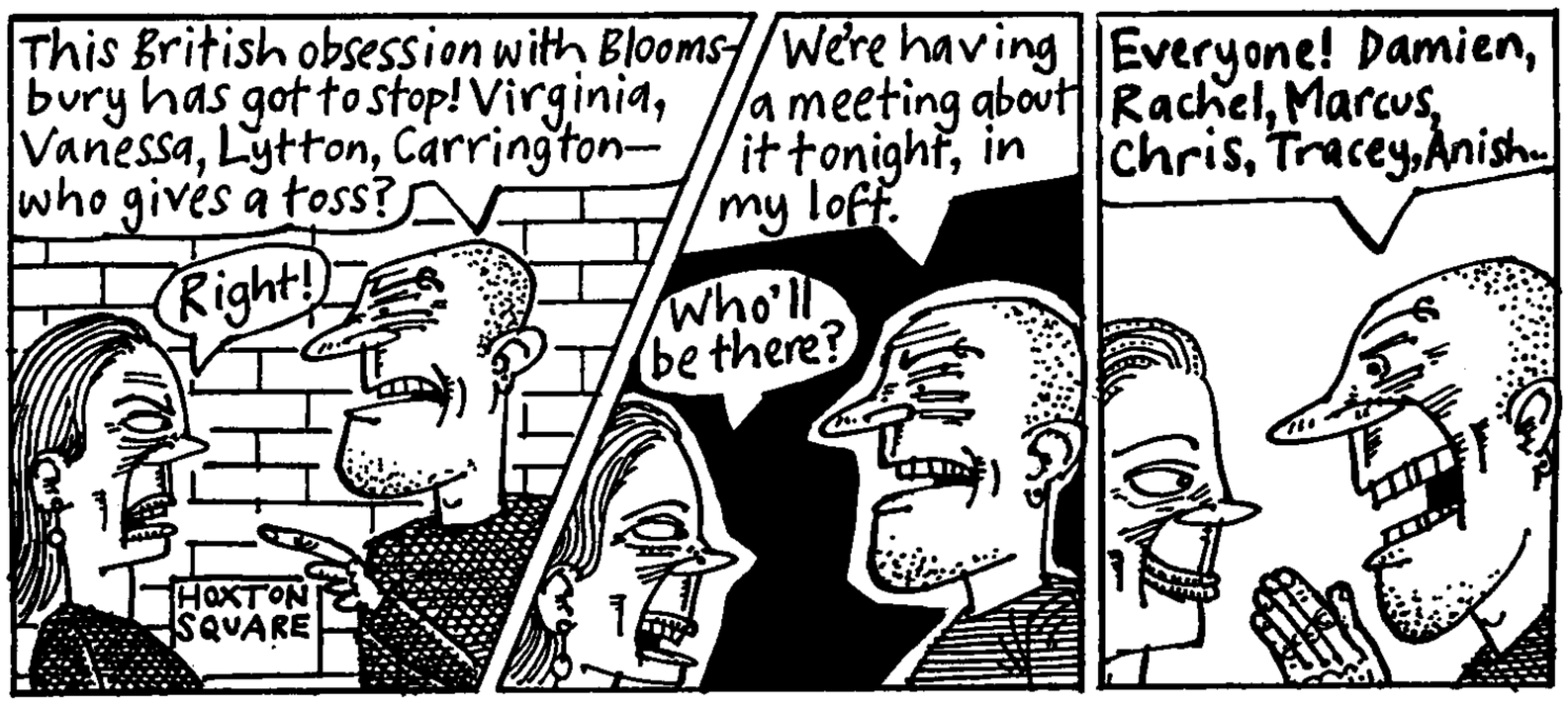


A Guide to the Law for School Governers

Headteacher, governors and LEAs in England
Status: Recommended
Date of issue: November 1999

Dept. of Education & Employment

YOUNG BRITISH ARTISTS BY BIRCH


This British obsession with Bloomsbury has got to stop! Virginia, Vanessa, Lytton, Carrington— who gives a toss?
Right!
HOXTON SQUARE
We're having a meeting about it tonight, in my loft.
Who'll be there?
Everyone! Damien, Rachel, Marcus, Chris, Tracey, Anish...

Nursery Rhymes For Today

The Wheel on the Thames goes
round and round.
Round and round,
Round and round.
The Wheel on the Thames goes
round and round.
But nobody goes to the Dome.

(Trad.)

GPs TO BE BANNED

Government To Act

by Our Political Staff
Ron Knee-Jerk

THE Government has been quick to respond to MPs' demands for an immediate ban on all GPs, following the horrifying mass-murders by Cheshire doctor Harold Shipman.

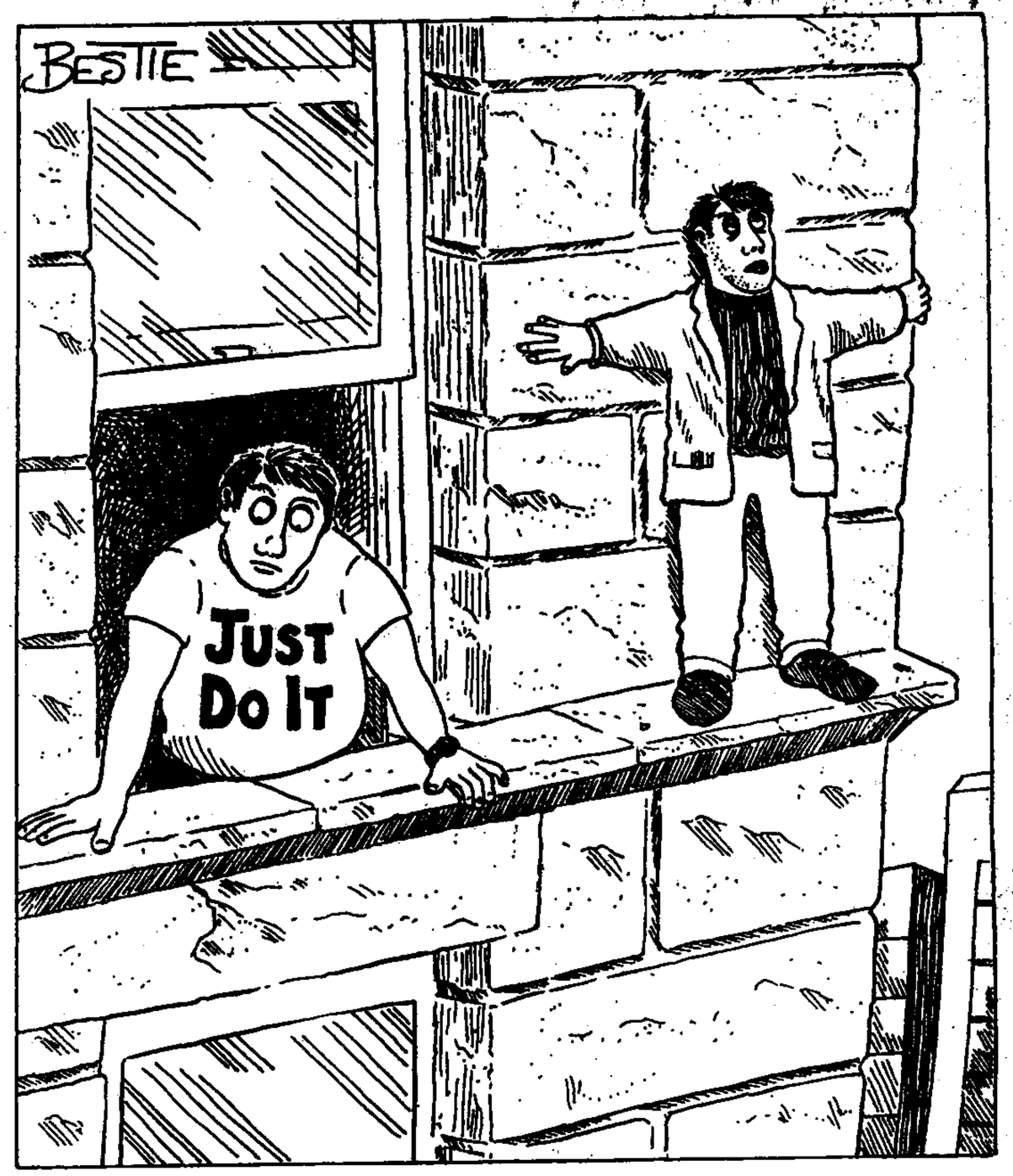
"A tragedy like this must never be allowed to happen again," said a Downing Street spokesman, "and the only way to guarantee this is to ensure that all these highly dangerous doctors are taken out of circulation as soon as possible."

Never Again

The Government plans to introduce its Dangerous Doctors (How To Show That We Are Doing Something In The Wake Of This Tragedy) Bill early in the next session.

It has been estimated that there are currently over 20,000 GPs in practice, and every one of them, MPs were warning last night, is "potentially lethal".

Under the proposed legislation all GPs will be given 28 days to hand themselves in to the nearest police station.



The Off-Duty Policeman Suddenly Realised He Wasn't Appropriately Dressed

SHIPMAN LATEST

THE FIGURE REACHES 150 — AND THERE ARE MORE TO COME

IT IS almost unbelievable but yesterday the total number of pages in this paper devoted to gruesome details of the Shipman murders reached 150. Yet, according to the editor, "We may only have scratched the surface. I think there are an awful lot more pages yet to be revealed. We are looking at a serial over-kill."

© All Newspapers.

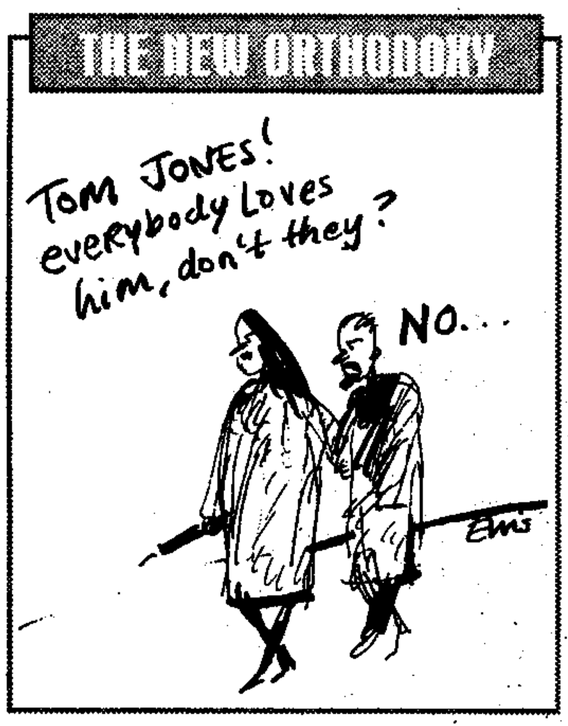
A Doctor Writes (You Off)

AS A Doctor, I am often asked, "Doctor, how many patients have you killed recently?"

The simple answer is: "Just sit down in that chair, and I'll give you a little injection."

© A. Murderer MM

THE NEW ORTHODOXY



Telegraph Exclusive

'I Was The First Man On The Wheel'

by **W.F. Deedes**

IT WAS with a sense of mounting awe and excitement that I approached the famous wheel. It had taken 2 years to construct and had encountered early technical problems but suddenly here it was in all its glory, ready to go!

Designed by Ug and his team of cave dwellers, the wheel is every bit as impressive as the hype suggests.

It rolls, it spins, it rotates. It is a modern miracle. Standing on it you can gaze out at the glories of Cro-Magnon civilisation and see the dinosaurs grazing peacefully in the swamp below. Mark my words, the wheel is here to stay. In my view it is the best thing since they invented fire last week.

© Bill Deedes, 3004 B.C.

Yobs

HUSBAND

HAT WEARS EMBARRASSING ROYAL

by Our Court Correspondent
Edward Furcoat-Amory

ONLOOKERS gasped in amazement yesterday when a respectable fur hat was seen out with a controversial blonde PR woman.

Last night the world of fur was outraged. "This is very embarrassing. What sort of message does it send out?" said top furrier Cruella de Vil.

WESSEX APPEAL

The fur hat later apologised, saying it had no idea that the Royal was real. "I thought she was a fake," it told reporters. *(Reuters)*

The Independent 11 February 2000

Showing Off With Hensher

Each week the popular Indescribably-boring *columnist Philip Hensher shares his unrivalled knowledge of the arts with readers.*

SITTING at my corner table in Spanko's last week with Oofy and Crispin *(Didn't you do the gay lifestyle bit last time? Ed.)* I found myself recalling the long hot summer of 1981 when, at the age of four, or was it five, I first read Proust. Could it have been the Scott-Moncrieff translation or had Terence Kilmartin produced his dazzling volumes by then? I really can't remember. This led me, as perhaps I *might have* anticipated, to think of Berlioz. Why is it that, unlike myself, the dreary know-nothings who administer contemporary culture don't listen to Berlioz? Is it simply that their sensibilities are somehow untuned to the vertiginous switchback ride of his aesthetic?

Meanwhile, to my horror, I find that some rubbishy book for children (urghh!), almost as shockingly bad as the ghastly C.S. Lewis, has been shortlisted by the Whitbread Prize, and may even beat David Cargs seventeen volume 3,938 page masterpiece on Berlioz's early years. It really is time for literary London to grow up. *(cont. p. 94)*

NEXT WEEK: How I bumped into Mike Tyson in the Selfridge's lingerie department.

Introducing The Eye's Sensational New Astrologer

PHIL SPACE

NOBODY wants yesterday's news. Or even today's. What they want is tomorrow's events last week. And that's what the Eye's amazing new star signing is going to give you.

Phil's Prediction

I predict that every day I will be churning out thousands of words which will go straight into the paper because it's so much easier than putting in real copy.

Here are some of the amazing events Phil foretold:

- 1997 – "A year of change"
- 1998 – "A big year for sport"
- 1999 – "A lot of things will happen"
- 2000 – "I'll get a huge cheque"

Don't miss Phil Space every day – he's the man who talks out of Uranus

THE OBSERVER

Robert McCrummy

ANYONE who fails to discern that the translation of Beowulf by Seamus Heaney (published by my old firm of Faber and Favour) is much better than the feeble Harry Potter oeuvre is not merely a philistine, but is probably an anti-Catholic bigot and member of the Orange Order as well. Perhaps only the most intelligent observers of the literary scene like myself can see this clearly, but it is very obvious to those of us who have any sort of educated taste that the Potter-loving bourgeoisie are no better than illiterate neanderthals who *(That's enough Whitbread. Ed.)*

"There's a one in fourteen million chance that it will be on time!"

TV Highlights

PICK OF THE DAY – Best Murder Mystery

BBC 9.00pm

The Case Of The 150 Dead Old Ladies (In three parts)

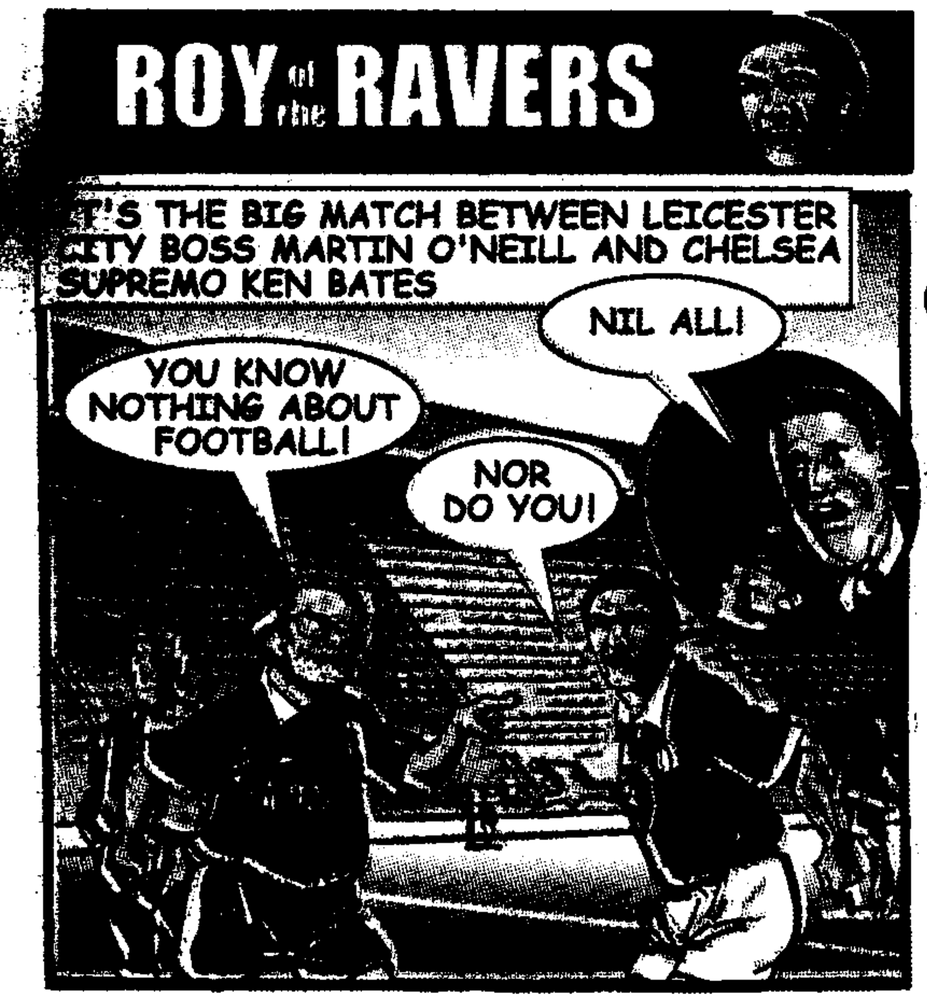
WHEN hundreds of elderly women in the sleepy Cheshire town of Hyde are found dead in mysterious circumstances, it only takes seven years for Inspector Knacker *(Surely Morse? Ed.)* to notice that something is wrong. Luckily, one of the old ladies' relatives solves the case for him, bringing the family doctor to justice.
BBC 7.30

Eye Rating: *Worrying*

Gerry's World Walkabout

GERRY ADAMS, former terrorist now turned peace ambassador, goes round the world meeting famous people and asking them to give him money. Gerry may be an international celebrity but he still finds time to talk to a few ordinary people at home as well, telling them to shut up and stop criticising him if they know what's good for them.

Eye Rating: *Even more worrying*


ROY of the RAVERS
IT'S THE BIG MATCH BETWEEN LEICESTER CITY BOSS MARTIN O'NEILL AND CHELSEA SUPREMO KEN BATES
NIL ALL!
YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT FOOTBALL!
NOR DO YOU!

THE TEMPORA

Solus X Dinarii Hodie!

MM A.D.

Caesar Gives Top Job To Brutus

by Our Political Staff **W.F. Ides**

Londinium, Friday

IN A bold reshuffle of his Cabinet, Caesar today appointed Brutus to one of the key positions in his forum team.

Hague Caesar!

Brutus, who was rumoured at one point to be challenging Caesar for the leadership, has made an astonishing comeback and yesterday pledged his full loyalty to Caesar.

"I am totally behind Julius," he said. "Wherever he goes I'll be lurking around behind him."

Et tu Brutillo?

His recall comes after Caesar has been concerned about his loss of popularity and the lack of a "big-hitter" amongst his close associates.

"Brutus's role is to go on the attack," said Caesar. "I really want him to put the knife in."

POETRY CORNER

In Memoriam Gad Rausing, Swedish milk-carton tycoon

So. Farewell then
God Rausing.
Son of the man
Who invented
The cardboard
Milk carton.

"How are you supposed
To open this?"
That was your customers'
Catchphrase.

"I've got milk all
Over me."
That was another.

E.J. Thribb (£17½ billion)

LEGOVER VOTED WORLD'S MOST POPULAR PASTIME

by Our Leisure Correspondent **Sir Toy Strong**

A PANEL of experts voted Legover, invented in Denmark in 1956, as "the most enjoyable leisure activity in the world".

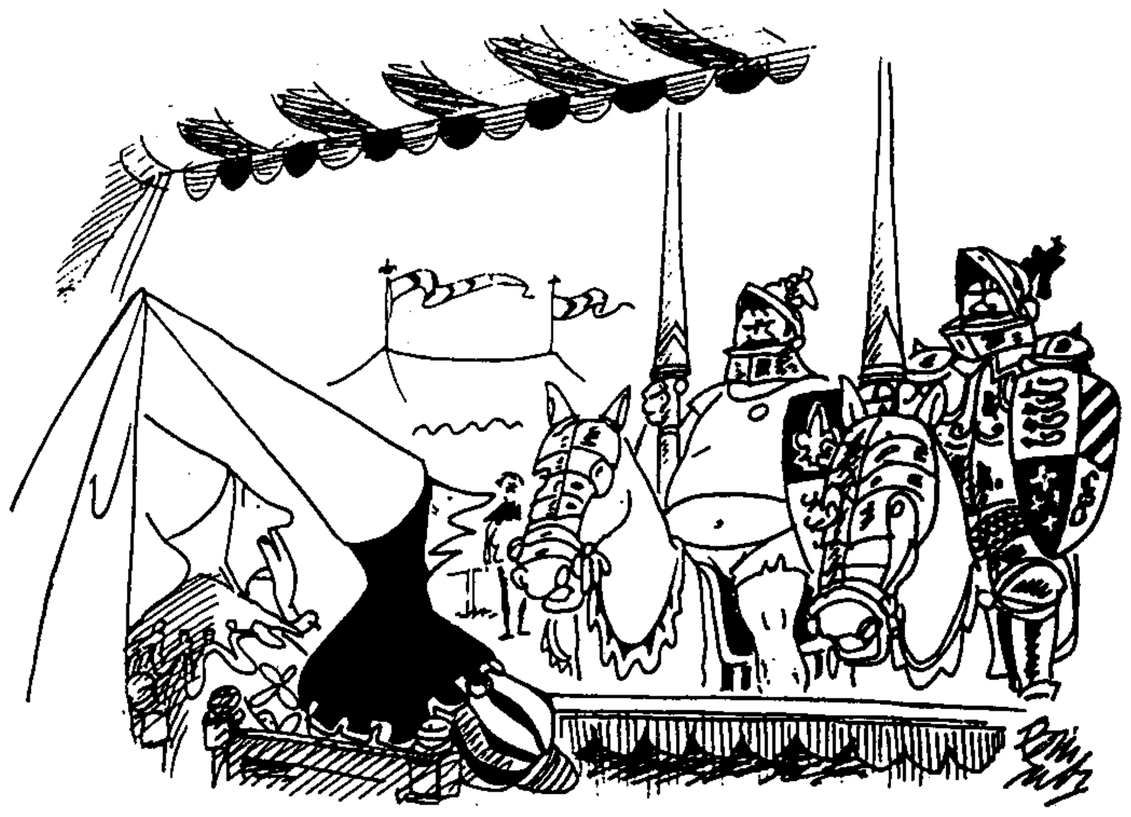
It is estimated that over 700 billion people have enjoyed Legover sometime in their lives.

FUN

This uniquely popular game is based on the principle of fitting two items into each other and then breaking them apart again.

Legover was voted a clear winner over all other past-times, way ahead of traditional rivals such as reading, ballroom dancing, walking the dog and listening to Melvyn Bragg on Radio Four.

Among the many famous addicts of Legover down the ages have been President John F. Kennedy, Elizabeth Taylor, the Duchess of York, Mr Robin Cook and Steven Norris.



"Call me old-fashioned, but I still prefer a man in a suit!"

"I sometimes feel quite guilty because I'm not stressed-out like all my friends"

SHOCK RESULTS IN U.S. PRIMARY

by Our Man In New Dworkin, **Susan Hampshire**
(Surely "Bruce Anderson"? Ed.)

THE U.S. Presidential race was unexpectedly blown wide open last night when the 12 voters of the tiny New England town of New Dworkin registered the most sensational upset in American primaries since Senator Jim F. Waspburger narrowly lost to Governor Walter P. Gunbarrel in 1932, thus opening the field to the man who was eventually beaten to the White House a mere nine months later by *(cont'd. p. 94)*

THAT NEW DWORKIN SHOCK RESULT IN FULL

Republican

Fred J. Greenback 7. Senator John Wayne Jr. 5. Congressman Michael Mouse 0.

Democrat

Al Capone III 5. Senator Gore Z. Vidal 2. Fred J. Greenback 25.

Observers noted that Mr Greenback, best noted for the fact that he is very rich and well-connected, managed to win both nominations, and goes on to fight himself in the Idaho Caucus on Super-Friday, which is to be held on Monday March 3 in Hawaii.

SAVE OUR KIDS FROM SEEING THIS GAY FILTH

writes Editor
John Heterow

IT'S DISGUSTING and depraved. Images like these are being presented to children with no warning and no consent from parents. And who is doing it? We are. If you want to stop your kiddies being corrupted by this exercise in pervert propaganda then don't buy the Sunday Times!

© *The Sungay Times*

BORES 28

Storm Grows

by Our Political Staff
Charles Boore

THE BIGGEST political row to have rocked Westminster for generations today exploded onto the front pages of every newspaper in the country.

"Could this be the hot potato that is going to bring down the Blair government?" asked hundreds of columnists. "Or is it the final nail in the Tories' coffin?"

The issue is simple. Should the infamous "Bores 28" stay or go?

And what is "Bores 28"? It is the law which makes it illegal to promote being a bore as being an equally acceptable life-style to talking about something interesting.

Said one anti-Bores 28 campaigner, "It is outrageous to discriminate against people simply on the grounds that they are boring.

"It is a basic human right to go on about unimportant issues rather than things that really matter."

Meanwhile, a pro-Bores 28 activist said, "It is outrageous that young people are being taught that it is perfectly OK to go around being boring at an early age."

ON OTHER PAGES

Millions of pieces about Bores 28 by the **Archbishop of Canterbury**, **Peter Tatchell**, **Cardinal Winning**, **Simon Heffer**, **Suzanne Moore** etc etc.

"Take your partners, please, for Black Sabbath's Paranoid..."

WOODHEAD ATTACKS REMOVAL OF CLAUSE 28

by Our Education Correspondent
Lolita May

THE CHIEF Inspector of Schools Chris Woodhead has insisted that Clause 28 must be retained to stop pupils being instructed in dubious sexual practices.

"Just consider the shocking case of one 16-year-old girl," he told reporters, "who was taught that a squalid sexual liaison with a second-rate thirty-something teacher had the same moral equivalence as that of two consenting homosexual adults entering into a committed long-term relationship."

"It turns my stomach," agreed his ex-wife.

Mr Woodhead is 24 (years older than her).

YESTERDAY

We don't want to promote homosexuality

TODAY

Congratulations! You're promoted!

HEATH'S PRIVATE VIEW

WILL YOU BE MY VALENTINE?
AHEARTY LAUGH!
BUSY?
I BET IT'S FROM ONE OF MY STALKERS!
FROM HAMPSTEAD
NHS
IT'S FROM A FIRM THAT PRODUCES PACEMAKERS!
BE OUR VALENTINE
YES, BUT I ONLY DELIVER GAY VALENTINES
WHO EVER IT IS, IS A MEAN SOD, IT'S BEEN SENT 2ND POST!
FLUFFY WUFFY LOVES GINGER BEER
OH, ALL THAT FLYING AROUND FIRING ARROWS IS HISTORY
I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU
I'M YOUR PUSSY MAGNET
WE MUST DO IT AGAIN
IS THERE SOMEONE ELSE? YOU'RE NOT PLAYING AROUND ARE YOU?
HEATH '00

DIARY

MICHAEL PARKINSON *meets* VICTORIA BECKHAM

Parky: In a sense, so to speak, you've done some truly amazing things in your life, would you agree, in a sense?

Posh: Seerzly, I don't ask to be in the papers, you know. It's not, like, please let me be in the papers. I mean, I don't ask to be in them. It's not as if I'm like, whatever happens I want to be in the papers. I don't ask to be in the papers, you know. It's not, like, hey, let's see if I'm in the papers today, let's, like, look through them to see if I'm in. I mean, I don't ask to be in the papers, you know.

Parky: Amazing. So would I be right in taking it then that in a certain sort of sense, Mel, you don't actually *ask* to be in the papers?

Posh: It's the meedyur. The meedyur controls what everybody thinks. A lot of people don't realise but it's the newspaper editors who say what goes into their newspapers. And the editor of the Daily Wodever will say, like, I demand, right, I DEMAND we have someone like really mega-interesting on the cover today to boost sales so the paper will sell more or wodever and some like office junior will say, what about one of the other Spice Girls for a change and the editor will say, like, no, they're not interesting enough I'm sorry to say it but they're a bit boring and I DEMAND Posh Spice. And that's the way the meedyur controls what everybody thinks. And I really don't need that hassaw. I don't ask to be in the papers, you know.

Parky: There's a question the whole world is asking, and in a sense I've got to put it to you. I mean, in a sense do you actually ASK to be in the papers? And on an entirely different matter, if I may – what's your husband the world famous footballer David Bockham really like as it were?

Posh: David's a very, very strong character, a really strong manly character who plays fubaw and really hates wearing women's clothes, like if I was to say, like, David, will you be wearing my lacy bra today, he'd be like, no way, what do you take me for, I wore that one yesterday.

Parky: He's not from Barnsley then?!

Posh: No.

Parky: Believe you me, you get a truly smashing chip buttie up Barnsley way.

Posh: I don't ask to be in the papers, you know.

Parky: Bit of brown sauce, salt, good splash o' vinegar, nowt beats it. Fascinating. And you've been doing a fair bit of interviewing yourself recently, in a sense –

Posh: I wanted to talk to all the famous peepaw I like really admire and ask them all the questions no one's ever asked them before. Like, I was that nervous but I asked Elton straight out when his next album was due, and I don't know how I honestly had the nerve but I walked up to Valentino, right, and asked him straight out like what it was like being a top dress designer.

Parky: That must've taken the wind out of his sails!

Posh: The sales weren't on. It was like October.

Parky: Amazing. And what did Valentino say when you asked him what it was like to be a top dress designer?

Posh: He said it was, like... really top.

Parky: You've got this extraordinary kind of fame. Throughout the world, everyone knows exactly who you are, even if they couldn't say exactly which one, and I'd imagine that must be a pretty daunting prospect on occasion.

Posh: Like now, whenever I just walk into a television studio, all the cameras are on me, and then they put a microphone near me, and the microphone picks up every word I say, and then it's all broadcast on television into the homes of millions and millions of people and sometimes I just wish I could be left alone for a change, like I wish I could just sit here in a studio and no one would bother me with questions. Sometimes I just wish I could be totally unanimous again.

Parky: And after all a year's a helluva long time to wait, isn't it? But for the time being do you and David ever manage as it were to live what could be described an ordinary life in a sense?

Posh: We're both just really ornry peepaw. Okay, we might have a bit of extra cash, but we don't let it change us, like we've still got our heads firmly on the ground, we're still really normaw, like we just sit round in the evening watching Eastenders like everyone else, and just because we can afford to pay the real actors to perform it live in our sitting room I don't see that makes us any different from anyone else.

Parky: There's one question the whole world is itching to ask, and that's – when's the new Bananarama album out?

Posh: At the moment, I'm writing my own album –

Parky: A solo album?! Great! I remember when I last interviewed the late, great Tony Bennett he also was writing a new alb-

Posh: And I'm writing all my own songs. It's like magic. They just come to me like that, generally when I'm like listening to the radio. Yesterday I wrote one I called "Do You Know The Way To San Jose?" then another called "Say A Little Prayer" and tomorrow I'm writing one called "Son Of A Preacherman". They just sort of flow out, it's like someone else was writing them, some like higher being.

Parky: Smashing. And you'll be singing them all solo?

Posh: Yup. I'll have backing singers and that, but I'll be definitely like joining in quite a bit on the days I'm in the studio. Hopeflee.

Parky: Finally, the question on everybody's lips: we know you from your press image, and we know you from the telly and from the records, but, tell me – who's the *real* Emma Bunton?

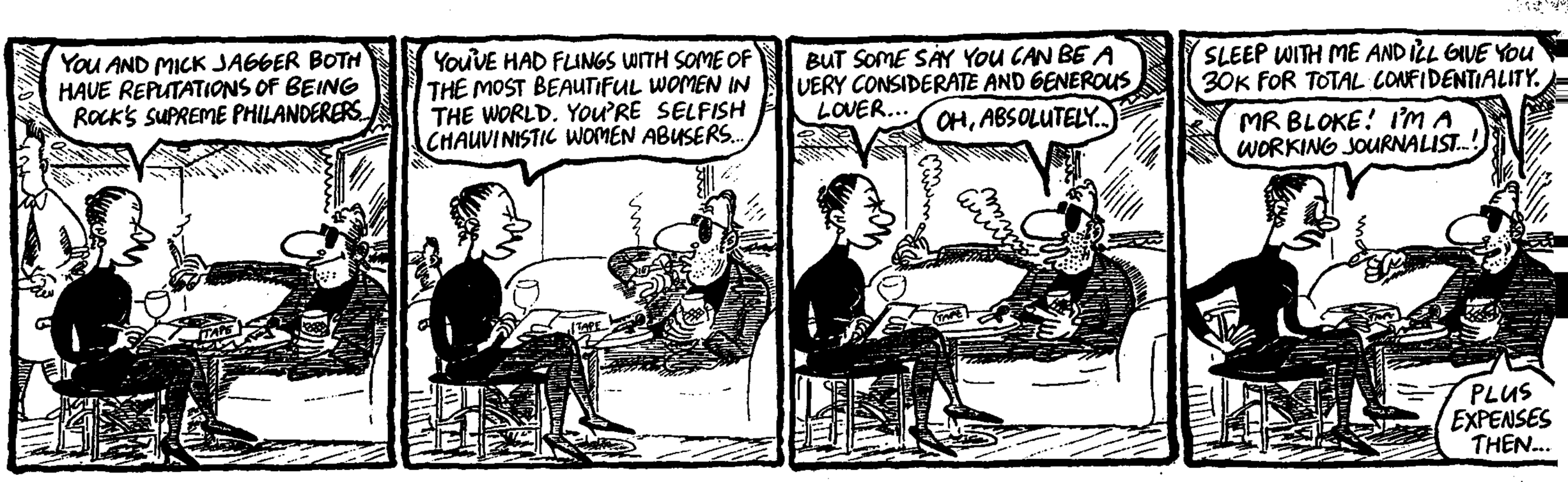
Posh: I'm just someone who wants to live a normaw life with my husband and my baby and not have everyone following me about who isn't part of my accredited camera crew. I don't ask to be on television, you know.

Parky: Cheers. Now it only remains for me to –

Posh: Shall I come back next week with David and the baby? I could if you want?

Parky: Ladies and Gentlemen, a big thanks and farewell to Victoria Principal!

As told to
CRAIG BROWN


YOU AND MICK JAGGER BOTH HAVE REPUTATIONS OF BEING ROCK'S SUPREME PHILANDERERS...
TAPE
YOU'VE HAD FLINGS WITH SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMEN IN THE WORLD. YOU'RE SELFISH CHAUVINISTIC WOMEN ABUSERS...
TAPE
BUT SOME SAY YOU CAN BE A VERY CONSIDERATE AND GENEROUS LOVER...
OH, ABSOLUTELY...
TAPE
SLEEP WITH ME AND I'LL GIVE YOU 30K FOR TOTAL CONFIDENTIALITY.
MR BLOKE! I'M A WORKING JOURNALIST...!
PLUS EXPENSES THEN...

Literary Review

Potty biography

M by Peter Robb
(Bloomsbury, £25)

IT'S a useful rule of thumb in the literary world that absolute proof that someone is nutty comes if they believe that the plays of Shakespeare were not written by Shakespeare. Recently it's become clear that the art world has a similar way of spotting kooks: coming up *with strange* theories about Caravaggio. Shortly after David Hockney asserted that he believes the artist to have used a keyhole camera for his compositions, Caravaggio is the subject of one of the oddest biographies ever published.

It's by Peter Robb, an Australian writer previously known for a stylish if eccentric travelogue, *Midnight In Sicily*. He's now turned to art history and a subject who poses instant problems for the biographer as Robb acknowledges: "The known facts of [Caravaggio's] life were few, and still are." Honest as the admission of this limitation is, it somehow doesn't stop Robb writing 600 pages on the subject. Later on he follows an admission that "nothing" is known about Caravaggio's life during a particular two years with the assertion that it was a period of amazing sex and drinking.

What Rob has done is to make it up. He's written a novel which has shamelessly been published as a life. This cavalier attitude to fact is typical of the modern biography. So too — in its endless emphasis on sex and murder — is the preference for the artist's life over work.

And then there's the writing. Robb aims to get away from the allegedly "stuffy" and "irreverent" tone of art writing. What this means in practice is that the boys in his nudes don't have penises but "dicks". 17th century Italy is compared to "Hollywood". Sentences begin with the jaunty declaration that "summer is fun time".

But the title is the giveaway. The vital decision for any biographer is whether to be on first or second name terms with the subject. The writer who calls Graham Greene "Graham" (Norman Sherry, Shirley Hazzard) can be assumed to be sympathetic. The biographer who calls him, in schoolmasterly fashion, "Greene" begins from a distant or even hostile perspective. Any biographer of George Orwell who refers to him as "Eric" gives notice of possibly off-putting pedantry. And so on.

The wackiest baptismal decision by a biographer until now was Ariana Stassinopolous Huffington in her book on Maria Callas. Perhaps understandably deranged by having three such long names herself, Stassinopolous Huffington asserted that two quite distinct personalities – "Maria" and "Callas" — resided in the body of her subject and so she used these designations interchangeably in the text.

This is nothing, though, in comparison with the decision of Robb who has managed to write a 600-page biography of Caravaggio in which the C-word scarcely appears at all. Robb's objection is that "Caravaggio" was not the painter's name but his birth place. Yet Caravaggio was the name used by Vasari in his lives of the artists and so can be considered to have stuck. The painter's real name was Michelangelo Merisi. So does Robb call him Michelangelo? Does he call him Merisi? Does he bugger? He calls him M throughout.

Why? Although the biography presents the artist formerly known as Caravaggio as a murderer on the run, it's a bit late for him to benefit from an alias. Apart from the sheer pretentiousness of this, it is deeply disconcerting for the general reader who keeps getting distracting echoes of James Bond's boss or Margaret Thatcher in the Dear Bill letters. At least the pop-star Prince — who did something similar — made the decision himself. Caravaggio is made to look stupid and precious by someone else.

The most sensible reason for buying it would be Caravaggio's pictures. But here Bloomsbury lets down the reader again. Despite a catalogue entry and press release promising "full colour reproductions throughout", there's just a small clump in the middle in which you can see the flesh and blood and otherwise it's black and white. The reader feels well and truly Robbed.

Books & Bookmen

■ THE fallout from the Whitbread Prize continues with more news of Anthony Holden's behaviour.

Not only did the pompous Holden throw a wobbly to get his own way in the final judging, but he bulldozed the biography panel into selecting his friend David Cairn's second volume on Berlioz as the category winner.

There was general amazement at the paucity of the biography shortlist, let alone the decision to give the award to Cairns rather than to Hilary Spurling's The Unknown Matisse. Holden then went on to argue for Berlioz in the final of the book of the year, and when he found no one in agreement had a "queenie" about Harry Potter.

Holden subsequently attempted to portray himself as the upholder of literary standards – this from the author of a number of cringeworthy royal potboilers but finally came a cropper when he tried to contrast Harry Potter as the representative of a regressive class-bound England with the modern thrusting er... dark-age, feudal Beowulf.

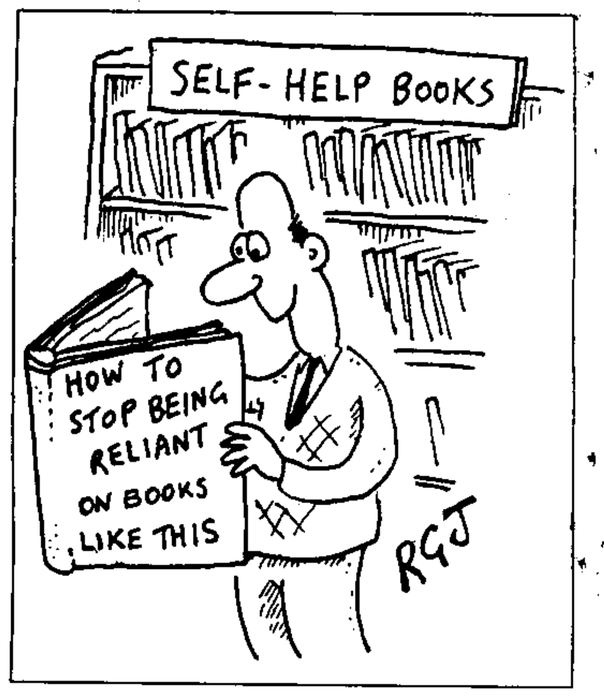
■ *INTERVIEWED by the* Bookseller *recently on his dual career as a Penguin publicist and HarpicCollins author, James "Jamie" Holland explained that he had "looked after lots of authors". Neatly, it now seems at least one of these authors is returning the favour and looking after him.*

According to the puff issued by Harpic, one of the most enthusiastic readers of Holland's debut novel One Thing Leads to Another *has been Jamie Oliver, star of BBC's* The Naked Chef. *The unclothed cook describes the novel as "an absolute cracker, a great book about mates, marriage and mating". Obviously Oliver's enthusiasm is completely unconnected to the fact that Holland was behind the publicity campaign for his own best-selling TV tie-in book.*

■ DESPITE having begun the search for a new marketing director before Martin Lee "resigned" last year, Waterstone's has only just managed to fill the high-profile post.

Continuing low morale — caused by falling profits, a shopfloor recruitment freeze and the fact that three long-serving and experienced directors have been needlessly put on probation by HMV Media chief executive Alan "Weasel" Giles — would have made the process hard enough. But a bizarre diktat from the Weasel made matters even worse.

He told Waterstone's md David "Mekon" Kneale "whatever you do, don't get anyone from the book trade as nobody in this business understands marketing". Mekon eventually succeeded in finding someone who fitted the Weasel's criteria and actually wanted the job, Lesley Miles from the British School of Motoring. The result? The remaining members of the old guard now have to help their new colleague discard her L plates while trying desperately to keep their own jobs.



■ **THE recent appearance in the *Evening Standard* of a lengthy anti-Birt broadside by former *Absurder* TV critic John Naughton has renewed interest in one of the longest-running mysteries in publishing: whatever happened to *Bi.t!*, Naughton's unauthorised biography of the former DG (see *Eyes* passim)?**

First commissioned by Faber and Faber in 1993, the book has since been taken up by Chatto and Windus, an outpost of the Random House empire run by "Sir" Gail Rebuck. Where is it?

■ IN a somewhat surprising move, burly Glaswegian wheeler-dealer Eddie "Arturo" Bell has resigned as chairman and publisher of HarpicCollins UK to "pursue other publishing opportunities" just days after the company won two prizes at the British Book Awards.

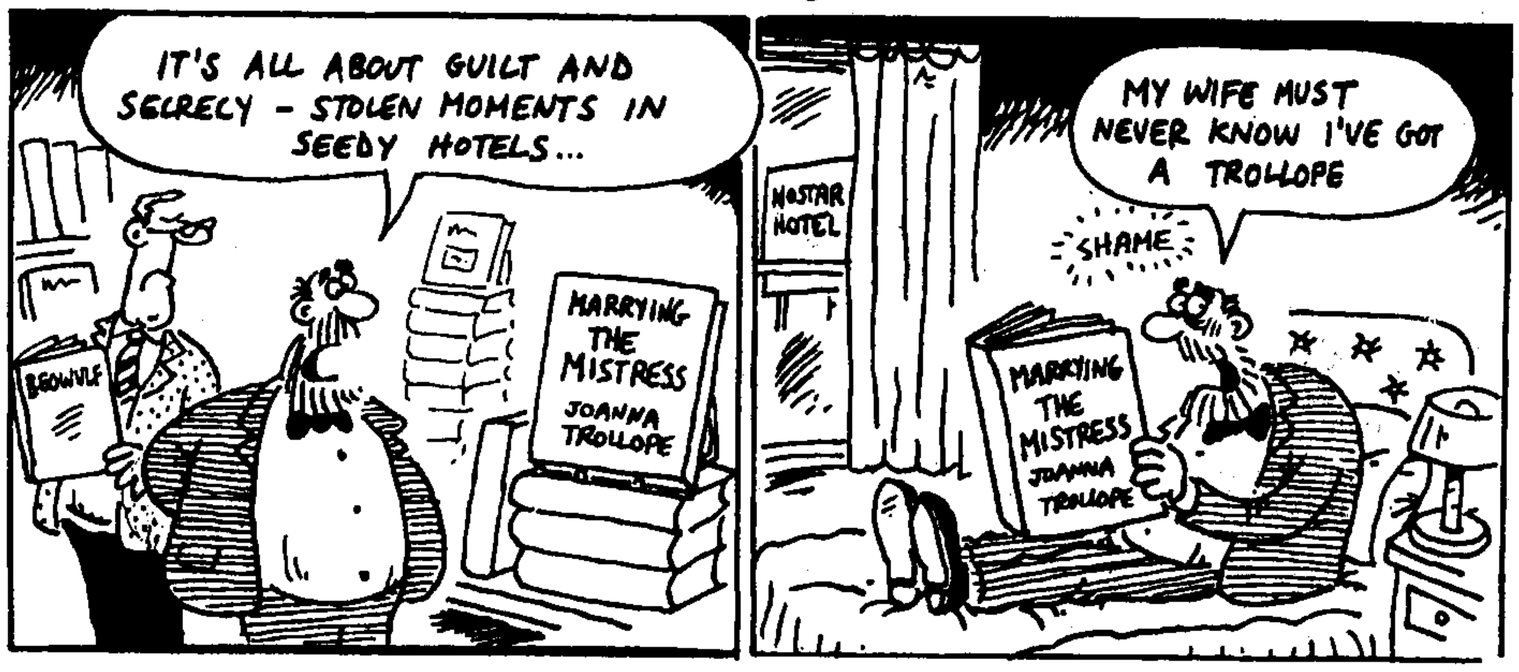
In the absence of any suitable vacancy at the top level of the trade, it is hard to see exactly what he is intending to do.

Does the Digger have a new challenge lined up for him — or is he planning to wax fat(ter) as an independent consultant? Could he be using his sales experience to act as agent to his close friend, the star Harpic author Lord Archer-sickofhim?

Could it be an internet start-up — given that his former employer has embraced new media so fully with its Fire and Water website? Perhaps we will witness City investors queuing to plough money into McBastard.com. Ice cream sales over the net, anyone?

■ ANOTHER ongoing situation for Random House concerns Nigel Appleby's *Hall of the Gods*, published by the Heinemann imprint in June 1998, and withdrawn after just two days on sale due to allegations of plagiarism. Are they ever going to compensate Ralph Ellis, whose self-published *Thoth: Architect of the Universe* had covered the same ground as Appleby the year before?

'Bookworm'



IN THE BACK

JUDGE DREADFUL

IF the government issues new guidelines governing drug legislation, perhaps they will prevent Inspector Knacker launching any more barmy undercover operations to arrest hapless charity, social, health or drug workers.

For, thanks to an overzealous interpretation by police, prosecutors and Judge Jonathan Howarth – Cambridge's answer to hanging Judge Jefferies – charity workers Ruth Wyner and John Brock have been jailed for a staggering five and four years apiece.

Wyner and Brock ran a drop-in day centre for the city's difficult and dispossessed, and the postbag of their MP, Anne Campbell, is bursting with letters of outrage at their imprisonment. Campbell had been hoping to provoke a Commons debate over the injustice but cannot until their appeals are exhausted. Instead she has been told that the misuse of drugs act – in particular section eight, under which the pair were jailed – is under review.

Wyner and Brock were convicted of allowing heroin to be supplied on their promises, the Wintercomfort drop-in centre. In fact the pair were avowedly *anti*-drugs. They knew they had a drug problem (like any similar drop-in centre, prison, university campus or indeed NHS ward), and the challenge, as with all such institutions, was how to tackle the problem without driving away the people they were trying to bring in off the streets and help.

They did what many such centres do: adopted a drugs policy that guaranteed client confidentiality but meant that those who were caught or suspected of dealing were banned. This approach was approved and encouraged by the charity's board of trustees – and, more importantly, by police officers from Cambridgeshire who regularly attended meetings and visited the centre.

However, in a weird perversion of the criminal justice system, while uniformed Knackers led the pair to believe that their actions were legal, undercover cops were setting out to prosecute them. Any sane person – any government minister even – knows that the misuse of drugs act was not designed to trap selfless individuals like Wyner and Brock who work with some of the most vulnerable and sometimes disturbed members of society.

Indeed what concerns some ministers, and Keith Hellawell and Louise Casey, respectively Tony Blair's drugs and homelessness "tsars", is that their efforts to rid the streets of the vulnerable will be seriously jeopardised if dedicated workers risk falling foul of the law.

Any new government guidance will of course be too late for Wyner and Brock, who are both detained at High Point prison and both depending on the courts for justice. Last month was inauspicious: high court judge Mr Justice Richards refused them leave to appeal against their conviction. He did, however, allow them to appeal against sentence – often the refuge of the criminal justice system when under attack.

At their original trial Judge Howarth damned the two charity workers by giving them a draconian sentence equal to or greater than those received by the eight day centre clients who were prosecuted for dealing. He did so based on a series of mistakes and misunderstandings.

These included:

Suggesting that the centre had only banned nine or 10 known dealers in just over a year, while failing to note that were also 162 bans on suspected dealers, indicating a tough rather than a lax policy;

Suggesting that dealing took place "frequently in the presence or within the view of staff members". The 300 hours of police video evidence showed that dealers stopped their activities when staff walked by. Uniformed police officers, who regularly visited the centre, are also seen walking past people exchanging drugs without recognising what is going on;

Suggesting that people came from 30 to 40 miles away for the sole purpose of buying heroin, when clients had to travel that distance for housing advice, support and care because the centre is only one of two serving East Anglia;

Suggesting that there were up to 10 dealers a day operating on the premises based solely on the evidence of one Timothy Pocket, a self-confessed dealer with a history of dishonesty. In the entire four-month police covert operation only eight dealers were arrested;

Suggesting that Pocket was "a creditable witness", even though he claimed he would deal at the centre from 9am even though it did not open until 11am;

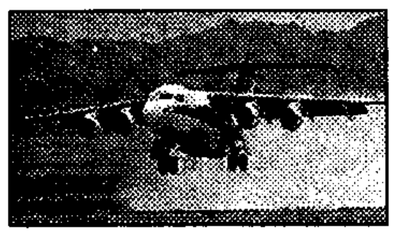
Suggesting that neither Wyner nor Brock cooperated with police when an inspector regularly attended their meetings and when uniformed officers were welcome at the centre;

Suggesting that the pair broke the trust of the charity, by enforcing a policy of confidentiality when it was at odds with the law, when they clearly believed the policy was consistent with the law and was common to other such day centres around the country.

The pair's supporters point out that about half – some say 70 percent – of homeless people using day centres abuse drugs and almost all will be involved in small scale dealing with other users to pay for their habit. Such trade, a quick exchange of a small fix by way of handshake or kiss, is hard to spot or stop. Even prison governors with all their powers fail to stop widespread drug abuse in our jails, and police officers fail to stop it on the streets.

Indeed, on induction at High Point prison, John Brock was advised not to use drugs —— but if he did, "safe methods" of consuming drugs were explained to him. What would Judge Howarth have made of that?

FUMES WHAT A SHOCKER II



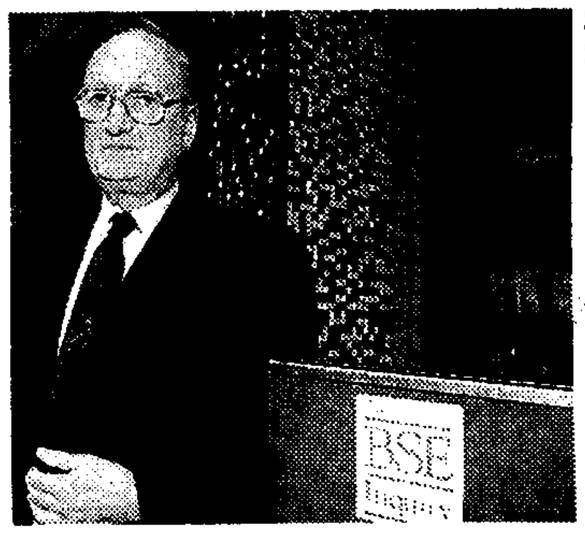
HARDLY had the last *Eye* hit the streets with its story about breathing difficulties on board a British Aerospace 146 airliner in Sweden than the menace struck again — this time in Australia.

An internal Qantas flight signalled an on board emergency 20 minutes out of Darwin when the cabin filled with engine fumes and all the resources of the crew were called on to prevent mass panic among the passengers.

The captain, invoking full emergency procedure, managed to return to Darwin without any injury being suffered, though several passengers complained of severe breathlessness. The incident is being investigated by the board of safety in Australia, where many 146s are on internal flight duty.

Back in England, home of British Aerospace, ministers are not too worried. Asked just before Christmas by Liberal Democrat MP Paul Tyler what plans his department has to identify potential health hazards on the 146 after the Swedish incident reported in the last *Eye*, the transport minister, former firebrand Chris Mullin, replied: "The incident referred to involved an American manufactured engine on a Swedish registered aircraft. The UK authorities are not therefore involved in the investigation of the incident.

"A fault was identified with the engine which has now been returned to the US for examination by the Federal Aviation Administration in conjunction with the manufacturer and British Aerospace. It is far too early to say whether this incident involved an oil leak or any exposure to organophosphate contamination."



Sir Richard Southwood

VACCINE: TISSUE OF TRUTH?

"The greatest risk, in theory, would be from parenteral injection of material derived from bovine brain or lymphoid tissue."

— The Southwood Report into BSE (February 1989).

"Personally, I would have thought the possibility of human infection was moderately high if some medicinal products were made from tissues of infected animals and injected into humans."

— Sir Richard Southwood, reacting to the Tyrrell report on research into the dangers of BSE, 5 July 1989.

"There was a potential for a new and different route of transmission in medicinal products made from bovine ingredients. So the worry was there, that if in fact there was a population that had inadvertently in the last few years been receiving medicinal products made from British bovines, that there might be a group which we ought to be monitoring, because essentially if anybody was at risk, that might be a group that was at risk."

— Dr Hilary Pickles, former principal medical officer, department of health, inquiry proceedings, 14 July, 1998, pp 29, 30.

"I think it came as quite a surprise just how many medicinal products had materials of bovine origin in them… To that extent, you would have to classify medicinal products in different categories according to which bovine material that went into them, and for that reason one moved to the national monitoring that Dr Pickles referred to."

— Dr Jeremy Metters, deputy chief medical officer, department of health, inquiry proceedings, 14 July 1998, pp 41, 42.

"We are still worried about this matter, and it is right that we should continue to send signals to the Committee for Safety of Medicines… Present evidence allows us to give no absolute assurance but some relative assurance. Meanwhile, it seems unreasonable to allow vaccines that have some association with UK-sourced bovine products to be used when they could be replaced with batches that have been processed in compliance with the guidelines. Accordingly, our line of advice to the committee is hardening. I would like you to count me among the hawks on this."

— Prof Gerald Collee, BSE Working Group, October 1990, reported in the inquiry's Medicines draft factual account, par 640.

Three matters arise.

1. Despite all these statements, the fact remains, as conceded by ministers just before Christmas and reported in the last *Eye*, that from 1989 to 1992, vaccines manufactured at least in part from bovine ingredients continued to be used in large quantities in British surgeries and hospitals.

2. In a statement of information to the inquiry, Prof Robert Will, head of the department of health CJD surveillance unit, refers to the "mechanism by which it might be established that a case or cases of CJD might be linked to BSE." This is summarised in a control study which refers only to diet and occupation — but makes no reference to medicines or vaccines.

3. The industries associated with the production of vaccines have not even been asked to comment on the possible route through vaccines from BSE to CJD.

POLICE BRUTALITY

COP OUT

AS home secretary Jack Straw prepares to publish his response to last month's damning European report highlighting Britain's consistent failure to tackle police brutality and misconduct, details have emerged concerning the crucial passages the government censored from the original report.

They occur in detailed examination of four cases involving the Metropolitan police, where large sums of money were paid to people who had been beaten and assaulted by officers and, in one case, badly savaged by a police dog.

The government, having sat on the report for two years, removed the advice given by the Met's in-house solicitors to the head of its complaints and investigation branch, responsible for recommending what if any action should be taken against the individual officers.

Despite the government's best efforts, it is evident from the body of the report that the passages — ostensibly removed for "reasons of legal professional privilege" — raise issues that make it even harder to explain why the officers were not properly dealt with. "What is striking is that in common with all of the cases which were examined by the CPT's delegation, no criminal proceedings were taken against any of the police officers involved in the four cases cited above," says the report.

It is clear the missing passages highlighted potential disciplinary or criminal issues, yet only in the case of the dog attack, for which the Met paid out £40,000, were two officers given "words of advice". In the others no action was taken against officers.

In the case of a black family — the wife heavily pregnant — who were assaulted in the back of a police vehicle, the report says intriguingly: "As may be seen below MPSD lawyers had identified another difficulty with this case." It was not possible to "see below" because Jack Straw's pen had been at work. But the Met did settle the case.

Quite why the government should claim privilege in a matter of such public concern has mystified human rights lawyers here and in the rest of Europe. We may find out when the home secretary responds to the report's demands for a fully independent police complaints system and an investigation into whether criminal or disciplinary proceedings should have been taken in all recent civil cases which have resulted in compensation payments of £10,000 or more.

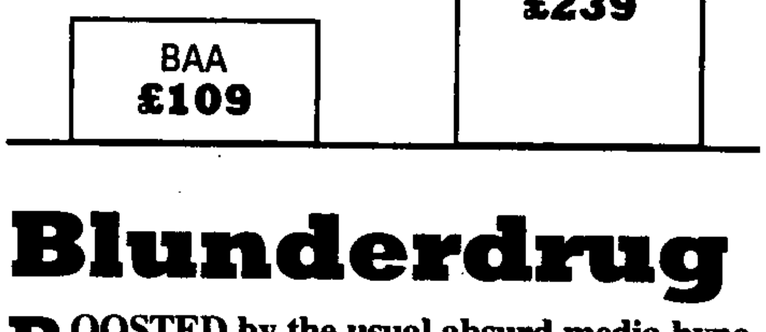
The original report, by the cumbersomely named European Committee for the Prevention of Torture or Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT for short), which tries to safeguard the rights of those in police or prison custody, concluded that violent and dishonest officers were effectively acting with impunity.

It was scathing of a system that gives the police almost total control of both an inquiry into police conduct and the outcome — even when the matter was so serious it had resulted in someone's death. It also concluded that the civil courts had become an alternative to criminal or disciplinary action, meaning that taxpayers compensate those who have been injured or wronged by the police while the officers responsible walk away scot-free.

Stock Horror BAA

Despite its near monopoly on air traffic into, out of and through London, airports company BAA – owner of Heathrow and Gatwick – is stuck on the runway.

Value today of £100 invested 5 years ago in . . .



Blunderdrug

BOOSTED by the usual absurd media hype, shares in British Biotech just managed to struggle up to 38p – still 5p short of their value when new chief executive Elliot Goldstein started to refloat the sinking ship last year. Then the ship hit another rock.

Last year the company admitted that two of its three anti-cancer wonderdrugs were useless, or worse, and paid vast compensation to their former clinical director, Andy Miller, who had been sacked for telling the truth about the drug trials.

Miller also predicted that the third wonderdrug, marimastat, was also doomed – a prediction which was greeted by the company with standard scepticism. Now the company admits Miller was right about marimastat too. Trials on 239 patients in America and Europe proved conclusively that marimastat in the doses tested is no more likely to cure liver cancer than a lump of sugar.

Down plunged the shares again to 27p and falling. Meanwhile poor Keith McCullagh, British Biotech's Blairite founder and former chief executive who resigned with some £600,000 to cheer him up not long before the company finally surrendered to Andy Millar, has become the butt of some rather tasteless jokes.

At the recent annual dinner of the British Biotechnology Association, the guest speaker was Welsh wizard Chris Evans, Tony Blair's personal adviser on biotechnology. Evans devoted a rather large part of his speech to a joke about his friend McCullagh, who was at the dinner. According to the *Times* diary, the joke was "unrepeatable" – so the *Eye* had better repeat it.

It pretended that McCullagh, "who has a lot of spare time to devote to gardening", had come across an old piece of metal in his garden which turned out to be a genie. The genie promised to fulfil any of McCullagh's wishes, but warned that whatever he asked for, Andy Miller would get ten times as much. When this proved true after the first two wishes, the wily McCullagh wished for a "large penis and a small heart attack".

For some reason the joke did not bring the house down, and the guest of honour, cabinet enforcer Mo Mowlam, walked out, apparently in disgust. When a harmless report appeared in the *Times* diary, Evans blew his top and lived up to his Blairite credentials by berating the editor for daring to report accurately what been said at a public dinner.

Anti-social services

CAMBRIDGE social services no doubt hoped the jailing of senior social work manager Keith Laverack three years ago would bring to an end claims that paedophilia was rife and unchecked in its children's homes for several years. But the charges are about to resurface.

An internal disciplinary hearing next month is due to hear the evidence of up to six former residents who will suggest that 52-year-old Laverack, who was jailed for 18 years for buggery and assault in children's homes in Cheshire as well as Cambridgeshire, was not the only abuser. One of the victims, who claims she was subjected to repeated rape and assault by Laverack and others, told the *Eye* she hopes the hearing will lead to a reopening of the criminal investigation into what was going on in the council homes in the 70s and 80s.

In another twist on this dreadful saga, lawyers representing Laverack's former victims at Midfield and Kneesworth care homes who are suing the council for negligence, have now uncovered evidence of abuse in a third home, known as Red House. Three former Red House residents have alleged assault and abuse by care worker Marc Kelsey in the early 80s. Kelsey was later battered to death in what was widely reported as a vicious gay-bashing.

One woman, who claims Kelsey sexually abused her at the home, said Laverack was also a regular visitor. In a statement she described how the older residents would try to protect the younger ones, who would sound the alarm by banging on pipework when Kelsey entered their rooms. She said: "When I heard that Kelsey had been murdered I could find no pity for him because he showed none himself to the children he abused." She and the other two Red House residents are also now about to sue the local authority for negligence.

Cambridgeshire of course is still on "on probation" with the social services inspectorate after critical child care reports following the Laverack case and that of Rikki Neave, the six-year-old on the council's "at risk" register who was found murdered near his home. His mother was cleared of murder but convicted of five charges of cruelty.

A spokesman for the council said: "Following the arrest and conviction of Keith Laverack the police undertook a thorough investigation of alleged paedophile activity in Cambridgeshire known as Operation Advie. That investigation, which was conducted over 18 months, revealed no evidence of a paedophile ring in the county and it did not reveal any link between Keith Laverack and Marc Kelsey or anyone else working together to abuse children."

High Principals

REMEMBER the amazing story of Stoke-on-Trent College, where principal Neil Preston and girlfriend Helen Chandler awarded themselves huge salaries, saddled the taxpayer with a £3.4m debt and skived off sick for three months while they renovated their pub in Wales? There's more.

Former lecturer Colin Dickson was not at all happy when he and 40 colleagues were summarily sacked to pay for the mess Preston and Chandler had made. He felt he had not been properly consulted and had been unfairly targeted because he was more experienced and therefore more expensive.

Though he was a long-standing member of NATFHE, the union refused to pay for his case at an industrial tribunal. So he took it there himself at his own expense. He lost at the tribunal but won his appeal. Just before Christmas he won damages of £2,000. If all the wronged lecturers respond with similar claims, the wretched college and taxpayer could be down by another £80,000 or so.

LAST OF THE FREEBIES

THE 450 staff at Highlands and Islands Enterprise were said to be "delighted" with their millennial present from their employers: a free copy of *Last of The Free*, somewhat generously described as "a lasting contribution to Highland culture".

The author is James Hunter, chairman of Highlands and Islands Enterprise. And as revealed in *Eye* 985, the board originally dished out £30,000 to publish the book. The cost of the millennial gift to staff was an extra £5,000.

One of Hunter's most difficult decisions as chairman was to award the three contracts for the controversial scheme to build a funicular railway on the Cairngorms estate owned by Highlands and Islands Enterprise. The first contract went to the Edinburgh construction company, Morrison. Just before Christmas, after a tendering process which stretched right across Europe, the third and final contract went to, er, the Edinburgh construction company Morrison. The chairman of Morrison is Sir Fraser Morrison, who in 1998 stepped down as chairman of Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

James Hunter

Sir Fraser Morrison

In the Back continued overleaf

CHARITY SHOPPED

THE Charities Commission's stated aim is to "give the public confidence in the integrity of charities in England and Wales". But if the speed at which it investigated the integrity of the now defunct Bosnian relief fund Crisis Support is anything to go by, the public shouldn't expect too much.

Crisis Support was set up in March 1993 by Michael Roberts, whom *Eye* readers may recall as the *Mail on Sunday*'s impeccable source for its scoop on former Animal Liberation Front member David Hammond (*Eye* 994). In July 1993, the commission opened an inquiry into allegations by volunteers working for Roberts that money had been misappropriated.

A joint investigation by the commission and Sussex police revealed that trustees and persons named on Crisis Support's letterheads were either fictitious or aliases of Roberts himself, his wife and his illustrious sidekick Joe Taylor — who, by a strange coincidence, was the second source for the recent *Mail on Sunday* scoop. To those who knew Roberts, this came as no surprise. According to Sussex police, he has used no fewer than 60 permutations of names and dates of birth during his life.

The Charities Commission discovered that funds earmarked for saving Bosnian babies had been diverted to saving baby moo-cows in Shoreham-by-Sea, contrary to the charity's stated objectives. The money had in fact been used to fund Roberts's Campaign Against Live Freight.

The commission also traced a building society account in the name of Crisis Support with deposits of £10,000 which had never been declared, and a charity shop operating under Crisis Support's name in Essex — though the shop had never been disclosed in the accounts, nor had it made any payments to the charity.

It then transpired that Roberts was inventing reports of aid convoys going to Bosnia. One report, dated April 1995, described movingly how much-needed aid was delivered to the "towns, villages and camps in and around Srebrenica", with the drivers finding "scenes of deprivation that would haunt them for the rest of their lives". The Charities Commission established that no such convoys had been to Bosnia "since at least 1 January 1994". Crisis Support had also been given huge quantities of controlled drugs, supposedly for its aid convoys to Bosnia, which were later found stockpiled under a tarpaulin at Roberts's home in Peacehaven, near Brighton.

Despite all this and more, the commission seemed in no great hurry to act. In October 1995, more than two years after the original complaint, it asked Roberts and the largely fictitious trustees to attend a meeting at its Taunton bunker. Needless to say, none of them turned up. In November 1995 it reached the blindingly obvious conclusion that there was sufficient evidence of mismanagement, maladministration and misapplication of charity funds to enable it to serve orders removing the trustees (sic) from office. And yet, due to an "administrative oversight", Crisis Support wasn't removed from the public register of charities until November 1999 — a mere six years after the first allegations of fraud.

A cursory check on Roberts's background would have revealed that he is a career criminal with convictions ranging from such uncharitable activities as theft, assault, receiving stolen goods, burglary and obtaining money by deception. Such a record should normally debar a person from running a charity.

And yet, despite being clearly implicated in the Crisis Support fraud, Roberts was never charged. Is it any wonder the criminal fraternity now recommends setting up a charity as one of the best and safest methods of making a fast buck?

Blood money

THE multi-million pound human albumin industry is rallying to boost plunging sales after research suggested that routine use of this blood product to boost fluid loss in critically ill patients might make them worse rather than cure them.

On both sides of the Atlantic the big trade producers of blood products, including Alpha, Baxter, Bayer and Centeon have already agreed spending of around US$2.5m on the so-called Albumin Support Programme. It is designed to spread the albumin word while rubbishing critical research which suggests that far cheaper alternatives might be safer.

So far the supposed non-profit manufacturers like state-run blood transfusion services belonging to the European Plasma Fractionation Association (EPFA) have not joined the programme. And some, like the Edinburgh transfusion service, flatly refuse to do so.

But now Richard Walker, EPFA president, is urging members to join the "very good" and "very cost-effective" programme. His letter told members that reservations about the trade-driven programme had been satisfied by the "scientific" context of the promotional activities.

But Mr Walker wears another hat. He is also chief executive of the Bio Products Laboratory, a special health authority of our own NHS. And if this arm of the NHS is to fund and support a programme to promote albumin, it will be pulling against the other arm which funded the critical research in the first place.

The 1998 study by the Cochrane Institute suggested that albumin use might result in between 600 and 1,200 unnecessary deaths a year in the UK, and that the seriously ill stood a better chance if they were transfused with saline or starch alternatives. The work led to new government restrictions and warnings worldwide about the use of the blood product.

Asked about this possible conflict of interest, Mr Walker declined to reply. "I do not think that is relevant and I do not see why I should discuss this with you, so I won't," he said.

"We're here to do the audit"

Complete lock-up

A RECORD 91 prisoners committed suicide in jails in England and Wales last year. With the prison population fairly constant (around 67,800) this 10 percent rise is an embarrassment for the prison service, especially as 62 percent of suicides were by remand prisoners – those unconvicted of any crime.

Service director Martin Neary has gone out of his way in recent months to put care of vulnerable prisoners at the heart of the penal system, but he is hampered by low staff morale and the inevitable lack of money. Staff cutbacks and a reduction in overtime opportunities have left prison officers disillusioned and under pressure. The axing of educational, training and leisure schemes for inmates has led to the 23 hour-a-day lock-up becoming the norm again in many prisons. And in a shared 10ft x 6ft cell with rudimentary sanitation, life quickly becomes unbearable.

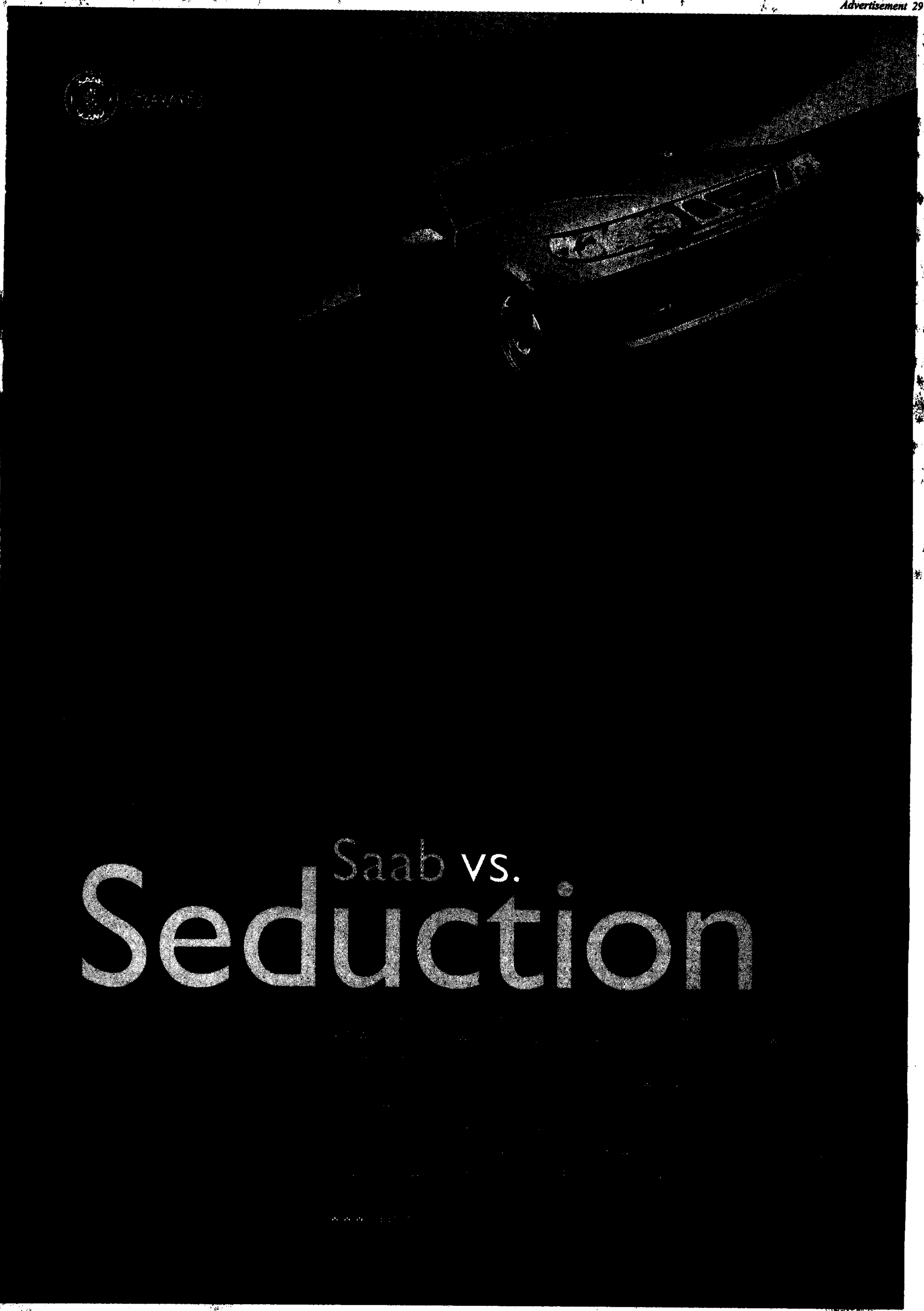
Although every cell now has a call button a prisoner can use to summon help in an emergency, they are so often misused officers tend to ignore them. A recent survey at Brixton prison found there was an average wait of 15 minutes before an officer responded to a call – plenty enough time to be beaten to a pulp by a cellmate or to hang oneself from the bars.

The prison service would like to install monitoring equipment in cells so that vulnerable prisoners can be given more protection, but it lacks the cash. Instead the government is spending money on building 30 more jails and prisons minister Paul Boateng told the Commons last month there were more to come.

THE DIRECTORS

DREDGE/RI
...AND THESE CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS ARE OVERHEATING THE ECONOMY SO THAT...
ER, CAN WE HAVE THAT IN PLAIN ENGLISH PLEASE!
... WELL IN A NUTSHELL WE'RE LOOKING AT A SHIT/FAN INTERFACE!

You can contact Paul Foot on 0171 287 3183 or the In the Back team on 0171 437 4017


Saab vs.
Seduction

specialEYEs

surveillance

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D NEED BUGGING EQUIPMENT. BUT THEN I SAID THE SAME ABOUT MOBILE PHONES

SUSPECT SOMETHING'S GOING ON? FIND OUT – WITHOUT BEING FOUND OUT!

As world leaders in covert intelligence products we've concealed cameras and tiny microphones in the most surprising ordinary everyday objects.
So if you want to find out and not be found out, give us a call.
And we'll keep it between ourselves.

LORRAINE ELECTRONICS SURVEILLANCE

Head Office: **716 Lea Bridge Road, London E10 6AW.** *Fax:* 0181 558 1338
Central London Showrooms: 59 South Audley Street, W1Y 5FB
27 Conduit Street, W1R 9TA
Web: http://www.lorraine.co.uk

0181 558 4226

PE

meeting people

★ STOCKBROKERS • DOCTORS • ADVERTISING • ACCOUNTANTS • ARCHITECTS ★

MARKETING • DESIGNERS

drawing down *the* moon

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION CONSULTANTS - THE FIRST AND FINEST

"a partner for life...that's where Drawing Down the Moon comes in"
FINANCIAL TIMES

0171-937 6263
www.drawingdownthemoon.co.uk
Head Office: Adam & Eve Mews, Kensington. *City Office:* Cannon Street
24 hours. Member ABIA. Est. 1984

EDUCATIONALISTS • WRITERS

★ MEDIA COMPANY DIRECTORS • LAWYERS • PR • BANKERS • SCIENTISTS ★

virtual services

Computers under the hammer!

- On-line computer auction
- All goods sold without reserve
- Massive range of computer products
- Simple registration process - secure site

www.morgan-auctions.co.uk

JVC · Panasonic · PHILIPS · SONY · Technics · TOSHIBA

SHOP WITH MOUSE AND SAVE LOTS

virtualelectrical.co.uk

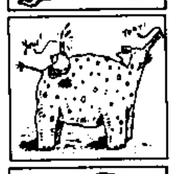
gifts

menu

biogs · books · gallery · exhibitions

Cartoon Gallery

A selection of cartoons, illustrations and animated cels can be found on the Cartoon Gallery Website, from Chris Riddell to Steve Bell, Alex to Appleby, Honeysett to Husband and McLachlan to Matt.



The site also has extensive biographies, including Ronald Searle and Kipper Williams and the merchandise pages offer a selection of books by top cartoonists from Britain and abroad.

All cartoons and books are dispatched within three working days via our mail order department, so for the speculative and gift buyer alike, please visit:

www.cartoongallery.co.uk

The Cartoon Gallery 39 Great Russell St. London WC1B 3PH
tel: 020-7636-1011 fax 020-7436-5053 e mail: cartoongallery@easynet.co.uk

GENUINE BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS

From largest archives saved from the past. Printed between 1642-2000. Sunday Newspapers from 1915. Ready for presentation. Same day dispatch.

REMEMBER WHEN
445 Brighton Road
South Croydon
CR2 6EU.

PE

0181 763 6363

HELICOPTER TOUR OF LONDON

Flying along the Thames at 1000 feet, seeing London's lights and the Dome.

Special Valentines Day Flights

OUR VOUCHERS MAKE AN IDEAL GIFT!

1/2 HOUR FLIGHT £125 per person inc vat

Phone for brochure or to book
CABAIR HELICOPTERS
0181 953 4411

drink

PURE FRENCH WINE
THE EEC ALLOWS 27 ADDITIVES IN WINE

DRINK DISOS

CAUTION DISOS IS STRONG!

NOT SOLD IN CALAIS

NOT SUPPLIED TO LARGE SUPERMARKET OR OFF LICENSE CHAINS

TELL YOUR FRIENDS

12% NATURAL ALCOHOL

GREAT VALUE - SO PURE

★ WEST/MIDS/WALES ★

SW19 NELSON 168 MERTON HIGH ST
SW6 KERRIGANS 199 LILLE RD
N1
NW3 SUGAR CANE WINCHESTER RD
W1 } INTERNATIONAL CHEESE CENTRES 21 GOODGE ST
SW1 } THE PDE. VICTORIA STN.
EC2 } WEST MALL LIVERPOOL ST. STN.
E11 WANSTEAD PEACHES 143 HIGH ST
SE1 COOPERS 17 LOWER MARSH
BEXLEYHEATH
GREENWICH CRAFT MKT
KINGSTON
★ SOUTH & EAST ★
BANBURY AREA
BASINGSTOKE
BEDS STH.
BOURNEMOUTH
BRIGHTON HOVE
BRACKNELL
CAMBRIDGE
CHELMSFORD AREA
CHICHESTER AREA
COLCHESTER
COLD NORTON
FORDINGBRIDGE
GODALMING
HATFIELD
HARPENDEN
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD
HORSHAM
IPSWICH
LYMINGTON
MAIDENHEAD
MILTON KEYNES
NORWICH
OXFORD
READING
REDHILL
SAWBRIDGEWORTH
SEAFORD/PEACEHAVEN
SOUTHAMPTON SO17
SOUTHSEA
TONBRIDGE
WHITSTABLE
WEST WYCOMBE STRS
LE VIGNERON
GREENLANDS
RIVERSIDE VEGETARIA
HOOK NORTON MACE
DUMMER P.O.
EDELSBOUROUGH NEWS
GRAHAMS CHARMINSTER RD
YORK HOUSE WINES
GT. HOLLAND LONDIS
GREAT EVERSDEN P.O.
COMPTON VILL STRS
BEER TENT BARRACK ST
COUNTRY PRODUCE
AVON WINE 10 HIGH ST
SHACKLEFORD VILL. STRS
77 SALISBURY SQ. P.O.
CHEERS 105 LUTON RD
LONDIS 16 ROSSGATE
CHEESE 20 CARFAX RD
MEMORABLE CHEESE 1 THE WALK
PILLEY P.O. STORES
GRENFELL RD STRS
WILLEN LAKERS SMKT
EARLHAM OPEN ALL HOURS
SELECT & SAVE ABINGDON RD
STANTON ST. JOHN P.O.
LONDIS 63 HORLEY RD
HIGH WYCH POST OFF.
??ROYS
HIGHFIELD P.O.
CONVENIENCE MKT 95 FAWCETT RD
PRIORY WINE CELLARS
TANKERTON COOKES
50 HIGH ST
PITTON POST OFF.
BATH SOUTH TWERTON POST OFF.
BEAMINSTER CRANE'S THE SQUARE
BRISTOL 285 GLOUCESTER RD
CARDIFF ROATH MATTS 116 CLIFTON ST
CHELTENHAM DALYS 81 QUEENS RD
CIRENCESTER BAMFORDS
DERBY K&A NEWS 8 MONK ST
LEAMINGTON SPA COUNTRY BUMKINS
LEICS WIGSTON MERCERS WELFORD RD
LLANRWST BLAS AR FWYD
MALVERN LINK LONDIS
MATLOCK TWO DALES WESTMORLAND STRS
OSWESTRY ST. MARTINS SAMS
SALISBURY PITTON P.O.
STAMFORD SIMPOLE-CLARKE ST. PAUL ST
STOKE ? RILEYS 105 HANLEY MKT
WESTON SUPER MARE HOPE & ANCHOR
★ NORTH & SCOTLAND ★
ASHTON ROGERSONS 48 MKT HALL
BIRKENSHAW MOON ON A STICK
BOWNESS LAKE NEWS
BRIGHOUSE CZERNIK COMMERCIAL ST
CHORLTON ST. ANNES WINE
DIDSBURY WEST FREDS LAPWING LANE
DONCASTER CARELESS OF FINNINGLEY
DURHAM JOHN OLIVER HAWTHORN TERR.
FORMBY WINES DUKE ST
GLASGOW BENSONS 127 CANDLERIGGS
HALE ANNABELLE'S 108 HALE RD
HULL HESSLE 1A WESTBOURNE AV
LIVERPOOL TEN TO TEN HARDMAN ST
MANCHESTER M4 LOVE SAYES THE DAY
MARPLE BARRATTS STOCKPORT RD
POYNTON CONTINENTAL 37 PARK LANE
ROCHDALE SMITHY BR. LAKE SMKT
SCARBORO MANOR RD STRS
SHEFFIELD ARCHER RD BEER SHOP
STIRLING SCOTTS BARNTON ST
STOCKPORT MIDDLE HILLGATE LICD STR
WAKEFIELD BREARLEYS OF STAINLEY
WHITEFIELD LEGENDARY LANCS HEROS
WITHINGTON ATULS WILMSLOW RD
YORK HAXBY RD POST OFFICE

NO LOCAL STOCKIST
ENGLAND BUY A CASE
STATE RED OR WHITE
CHEQUE WITH ORDER £57
TO DISOS LTD.

U.K. AGENT, TONY BOFFEY, 0161 428 7666.
DISOS LTD., DISOS BUSINESS CENTRE, 50 SPRINGFIELD ROAD, GATLEY SK8 4PF

DOES YOUR BOSS DRINK DISOS? ASK!

DRY FRUITY WHITE - SMOOTH STRONG RED

speech writer

SPEECHWRITING SERVICES
CORPORATE • SOCIAL • POLITICAL
Fully Customised and confidential
MAKE EM LAUGH OR NO FEE!
Emergency Speeches Undertaken.
Britain's leading Professional
MITCH MURRAY
01624 622660
Access - Visa - Mastercard

Reminder :
25 February
is our next issue.
Advertising for
these pages must
reach us no later
than Tuesday
15 February

Call
020-7839 6306
Madison Bell Ltd

services

WIND UP YOUR FRIENDS!

Call one of the numbers below, put it through to a mate - *then wait for the reaction!*

Mr. Fury
09060 111600
The Detective
09060 111615
Mr. Stammer
09060 111617
Irate Delivery Driver
09060 111618
My Daughters Pregnant
09060 111619

JOKELINES, PO BOX 43, WARMINSTER, WILTS BA12 7RJ
Calls cost £1/min at all times

Phone Bar
Swap messages and connect live 1-to-1 with other callers, 24 hours a day. Always at least 20 women on line, with up to 80 at busy times!
09066 144 149

Calls cost 60p/min. PhoneTime, POBox 4DZ, London, N1

clubs

The *Blue Angel Club*

welcomes you and your friends for a really unforgettable evening. Drink, or dine and dance in luxurious surroundings and be served or entertained by our Angels.

OpenMonday to Friday from 6.30pm until late

Membership not required.

17 Little Portland Street, London W1N 5DE Tel: 0171 636 2178

Walks R Us

Escape the stresses of modern life by discovering the joys of walking. Our 420 local groups organise regular walks and work to safeguard the many footpaths illegally blocked or under threat.

Why not join us for a walk and help us protect our nation's heritage?

Benefits of membership include:
- an essential Yearbook (worth £4.99)
- a quarterly magazine
- membership of one of our 420 local walking groups
- regular local newsletters
- discounts in many outdoor retailers

The Ramblers

1-5 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2XX.
Tel: 0171 339 8500
www.ramblers.org.uk

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____

Address _____

_____

Postcode _____ Date of birth _____

Tick box for membership type required

☐ Ordinary £20 ☐ Reduced* £11
☐ Family/joint† £26 ☐ Joint† reduced* £14

* Reduced membership is available for the unwaged, retired, disabled, students and under 18s.
† Family/Joint is for two adults at the same address.

Donation £_____ I enclose £_____

☐ We occasionally exchange names (for use once only) with other organisations which may interest you. Tick if you would prefer to be excluded.

Registered Charity No.306089

PE3

PRIVATE EYE

SUBSCRIPTIONS ORDER FORM

Mortimer House, 230-236 Lavender Hill, London SW11 1LE
UK: £17 Europe & Eire: £25 Airmail – rest of world: £33

Magazines to:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Please print and use the postcode

I enclose cheque for £..... for a year's subscription (26 issues)
OR
Please charge ACCESS VISA Card Expires: __ / __
Card number:

Cardholder's name and address if different from above

OR why not DIAL A SUB: 0171 228 0425 FAX A SUB: 0171 924 3719
Overseas subscribers please note: payment must be made by International Money Order **or** Bankers Draft in £ Sterling drawn on London **or** ACCESS/VISA

OVERLEAF:

PRIVATE EYE SMALLS CLASSIFIED LINAGE ADVERTISEMENTS 20 Orange Street, London WC2H 7ED

£1.75 PER WORD PERSONAL RATE VAT inclusive
£2.25 PER WORD BUSINESS RATE VAT inclusive

10 WORD MIMIMUM
BORDERING £10
Box number £8 (non-business advertisers only)
Cheques payable to Madison Bell Ltd
DICTATE YOUR ADVERTISEMENT
WITH CREDIT/DEBIT/SWITCH CARD
0171 839 8384 – FAX 0171 839 6719
E-mail: privateeye.ads@madibell.com
Deadline for advertising in next issue: FEBRUARY 11th
Send BOX NUMBER replies to address above.
Mail your advertisement with cheque/postal orders or ACCESS, VISA, SWITCH, SOLO, DELTA, number.
Please do not send cash.
More than one insertion? Discounts are as follows:
*5% discount for 3 insertions
*10% discount for 6 insertions
*15% discount for 12 insertions
*20% discount for 26 issues (one year)

PRIVATE EYE SMALLS

CLASSIFIED LINAGE ADVERTISEMENTS
£1.75 per word personal, inc. vat
£2.25 per word business, inc. vat
Bordering £10, Box Number £8
20 Orange Street, London WC2H 7ED
DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 11 Feb
Email: privateeye.ads@madibell.com

0171 839 8384

EYE QUOTE

A vast and labyrinthine citadel, inhabited by a rigid ruling caste and myriad scuttling servants whose lives are governed by a set of arcane and meaningless rituals – now why exactly did the BBC feel at home with the world of 'Gormenghast'?
ROBERT HANKS, The Independent.

EYE SAY

SPEECHWRITING by Britain's leading professional, Mitch Murray – see page 30.

VALENTINES GREETINGS!
WELL VIRTUALLY!
From your own
private WebSite
www.cyber-greetings.net/eye

INJUSTICE IS RIFE, find out more at www.portia.org.uk

EYE FIND

SEEKING STEVE metallurgist, date of birth circa 1960 – lived in Coventry 1995 but originally from North of England. Please contact ANGELA. Telephone: 0121 707 4930.

EYE VALENTINE BUYS

WICKED CARTOON caricatures – you send photo – we take p..s! Tel: 0115 958595.

"MERDE IL PLEUT" umbrellas £24.99 inc. p&p – OVERHEADS, 1 Wick Close, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 2NQ.

VALENTINE'S GIFTS
and
SEXY NOVELTIES
www.kingdoms.co.uk
Secure – Discrete – Reliable

GIVE HER A STAR named after her[him]. Superb certificate, gift letter star-map. NASA accredited. £25 or details from Eurostell Intergalaxy Register POB 372, Paphos, Cyprus.

VALENTINES GREETINGS!
WELL VIRTUALLY!
From your own
private WebSite
www.cyber-greetings.net/eye

THIS VALENTINE – give them an original NEWSPAPER dated very day they were born, £19, and get one for YOUR birthday FREE! 01492 531195.

RUBBER CHICKENS?
Fighting Nuns?
Voodoo Dolls?
www.gizmo-and-widget.co.uk

PLAYED TO MEASURE – original songs for special occasions, trade shows 0171 277 5014.

PAMPER YOUR LOVER
IN THE COMFORT
OF HER HOME.
Spoil her with a massage,
a new haristyle,
a manicure
or a combination of these and more!
Call
BODYBACK LTD
on 0208 673 0030
for more details.

IF MUSIC be the FOOD OF LOVE, get stuffed – at Richer Sounds. Freephone 0500 10 11 12 (24 hours) for your FREE 24 page CATALOGUE/BRANCH LIST or visit our website at www.richersounds.com

PHOTOBANNER
Your photograph and message on
6' BANNER
£39.95 inc.
C.T. Graphics
0121 241 7878
www.ctgraphics.co.uk

FOR THINGS YOU'LL WANT – www.maronah.co.uk

TITLES – LORD, LADY etc. Tel/Fax 0800 652 6641. www.elitetitles.co.uk

CHOCAGRA
ideal valentine's gift!!!
www.kingdoms.co.uk
FOR THOSE WANTING MORE
THAN JUST A KISS...

BALLOON FLIGHTS over London & Home Counties – great gift idea! www.adventureballoons.co.uk 01252 844222.

PERSONALISED CHAMPAGNE
your unique message
printed on the label
delivered
NEXTDAY NATIONWIDE
£28
0181 675 9494.
www.liquidid.co.uk

TITLE PLUS LAND for £20. HONEST! Details: SURVIVAL,(P), 'Norcot', LYBSTER, Caithness, KW3 6AQ.

WINES OF THE WORLD
DELIVERED
TO YOUR DOOR
Six different bottles
of the finest selected wines
from around the world from
£24.99
or why not enjoy
six different bottles of our
prestige range of wines
from around the world for
£34.99
excluding p&p.
Order direct from
DANSOF DIRECT MARKETING
on
0121 556 2277.

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY newspapers – FREEPHONE 0800 906609.

LEGAL TITLES AVAILABLE
Sir, Lord, Baron etc.
ENGLISH MANOR TITLES
01803 858644.

FLYING, GLIDING, helicopters, motor racing, rallying, vintage aircraft, ballooning, simulators, skydiving. Introductory GIFT VOUCHERS from £55 valid 100+ locations nationwide. FREE BROCHURE: ACORNE SPORTS – 01494 451703.

EYE HEAR

JUKEBOX HIRE for parties. 7" vinyl and/or CDs. Delivered. From £119 – 0181 318 2852.

MARTIN GUITARS. Get the guitar you have always promised yourself from www.guitar-centre.com

EYE READ

ENGLAND'S JOYLESS SOCIETY. A biting condemnation of England's dependence on institutionalised cheap labour. Cheques/PO's £2.50 to – Robert Weston, PO Box 4083, Bournemouth, BH8 8YR.

OUT OF PRINT BOOKS FOUND – free search. No obligation to purchase – 01376 562334. E-mail: Jeremy.Dore@tesco.net

DAUGHTER OF THE MANSE, by Garrick Espieside – "a filthy combination of lewdness and satire" – young woman's punitory odyssey through 'Sixties academic, religious and legal life (160 pages, A5): £14.99 – SPIRAL OAK, (214), 44 Morningside Road, Edinburgh, EH10 4BF, or CC's, 0131 6643326.

US BOOKS – US PRICES + audio, video, software – www.bookstore.co.uk – or phone 01932 828844.

FREE BOOKSEARCH – no purchase obligation. TWIGGERS BOOKS 0181 878 8644. E-mail: twiggers@btinternet.com

THE QUINTESSENTIAL English Vice – CP videos. SAE illustrated details: S.A.L., PO Box 154 Southport, PR8 2GP

EYE BUYS

EYES 301 TO 900 – few missing. Offers: 01932 247467.

EYE WANT

EXCELLENT WELL KNOWN BAND for private summer gig in Cumbria. Genuine. Box 1295.

TINY (OR OTHER) COMPUTERS. Have you had problems after buying? Box 3395.

HAVE YOU HAD AN AFFAIR
OR BEEN BETRAYED?
Has your marriage survived
an affair
or one night stand?
Are you a mistress?
GLOSSY MAGAZINE COMPANY
is looking for people
to talk about infidelity.
Please call
0171 462 6000
or email:
projectjoe@hbauer.freeserve.co.uk

DESPERATELY SEEKING 'Wonk The Koala Bear' books. Telephone: 0161 439 3473.

EXCITING, PASSIONATE but undercapitalised arts and politics magazine seeks like-minded philanthropist to expand production. Box 0694.

"LIVING WITHOUT..."
Boss without PA,
busy family without mother,
man without wig,
family without entertainment,
large household
without domestic staff,
woman without make-up.
COULD YOU COPE?
NEW C4 SERIES
call
0171 689 4297,
fax
0171 490 0206
or email:
dickon@fulcrumtv.com

EYE JOBS

CARERS REQUIRED for Oxfordshire Nursing Home. Accommodation available, training given. £200-£300 per week net. 01869 350940.

LOOKING FOR A JOB
IN I.T.
Then visit the
IT JOB CENTRE
at
www.itjobcentre.com

EYE EARN

CLAIM FREE SHARES! If you h[illegible] internet access. Free instructio[illegible] freeshares@totalise.co.uk

EYE WORK

DUBLIN – mature, experienced, versatile graduate entrepreneur available – local director, front man, agent, representative, etc. – urgently needs substantial income. Box 0495.

GOOD BUSINESS MANAGER, searching for a position in London. Can anyone help? Email: john.mclau@screaming.net

FILM MAKER with professional equipment seeks interesting financed projects. Box 0593.

20 YEAR OLD LAD seeks employment. Intelligent (amazing geographical knowledge going to waste) and open minded. Anything considered! E.Anglia / London / ANYWHERE – Box 1395.

EYE SELL

TAKE TO THE SKIES over Surrey! Pilot training package £3000. Unwanted gift – 01483 831939.

GO TO
www.IANHISLOP.co.uk

www.leatherchairs.com

JOIN THE INTERNET revolution with Anglo – the best domain names for the UK: anglojob, anglotoys, anglocars, angloserve, anglofilm, anglopop, anglofun, anglostay, anglotrip, anglogift, anglolife. All available as both .com and .co.uk. Contact *angloali@cs.com* or vist www.great domains.com (search word "anglo").

OLD PERSIAN RUGS – Mostly £100-£3,000. Shed not shop, telephone first. DESMOND NORTH, East Peckham, Kent. 01622 871353.

EYE CARE

ARTHRITIS?
NOW FOR SOMETHING
COMPLETELY DIFFERENT
To obtain an
explanatory brochure
FREEPHONE
0800 1693216

CONSULTANT HYPNOTHERAPIST, Harley Street. Stress, panic attacks, eating disorders, confidence, sexual problems, smoking, etc. Telephone: JESSICA RICHARDS – 0171 935 0023.

HEADLICE?
A SOLUTION
without neurotoxins
as featured in the
Daily Mail.
HELP LINE:
01380 830978.

VARICOSE VEINS? Latest theories and treatments – www.veins.co.uk

ERECTION
CORRECTION
and
Men's Health.
VIR CLINICS
offer
ALL
effective treatments.
For free literature
or details call
Tel: 0800 163861
Fax: 07079 007058

PREMARIN 2.5mg
OESTROGEN
HORMONES
for female breast development.
Free Info Pack.
DIRECT
PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLIES,
(DPS/PEY)
PO Box 79, NL 4645 ZH,
Putte, The Netherlands.

EYE HOMES

NOTTING HILL – just redecorated flat in listed terrace with communal gardens. Spacious double bedroom, drawing room, kitchen and bathroom. £400 per week. Tel: 01308 458707.

EYE HOME HUNT

LADY DOG AND CAR need to buy cottage in countryside / semirural West Midlands. All replies answered. Please contact Box 3795.

COUNTRY PROPERTY FINDERS
EAST ANGLIA
LET US DO THE SEARCHING
FOR YOU
SAVES TIME – SAVES STRESS –
CUTS COST
Do you want:
To buy a house?
To let or rent a house?
Agricultural land?
Commercial property?
Tell us what you are looking for and
we will do the rest.
Contact: Mark Bailey
e mail:
mb@countrypropertyfinders.co.uk
Fax: 01440 783059
Telephone: 01440 783039

EYE TECH

REGISTER .com domain names for $60. No hidden charges – www.xocet.co.uk

FIRST CLASS commercial hosting £99pa includes free domain name – hosting@colourpages.net

LAWYERS
go to
www.office-directory.demon.co.uk

FIND OUT who has been browsing your web site – www.newsales.co.uk

INCREDIBLE FREE INTERNET
1,500 domains
<your-name>@OKuk.com
<your-name>@treacletart.com
<your-name>@amazingspace.com
FREE TECHNICAL SUPPORT
5% of revenues to charities
www.peoplesnet.net
CD-Rom 0845 0800 814

GO TO
www.IANHISLOP.co.uk !

www.Xocet.co.uk
short lists, great names!
F'rinstance:
TekShares.com, FuturesOK.com,
ShareWatchUK.com,
RokkOn.com, 3dGraffix.com,
Xplosif.com, LondonAtNite.com,
NorthLondonRentals.com
Luv2Luv.com
email: daveya@indigo.ie

Get
WWW.YOURNAME.CO.UK
£10 for 2 years!
For more details visit
http://www.a-q.co.uk
Or Tel
0800 389 5815

EYE LEARN

PC TRAINING – at home or work, by Microsoft Office User Specialist. London or Herts area. 01582 769695 / 07974 414262 – irene.boogerman@cwnet.com

NEW INTERNET COURSE – Home study, online exercises. 0161 567213 for FREE sample. course_tutor@teacher.com

PSYCHOLOGY DIPLOMA – (Dip.Psy.) Write WOOD TUTORIALS, Freepost Unifaculty SCO 1109, Renfrew PA4 8BR.

UNIVERSITY DEGREES by mail. Free details: UDM, 6 Springlawn, Drive, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, Ireland.

GENUINE CHECKABLE accredited University Degrees. Life qualified. 0161 795 3056. univdegree@educ.freeserve.co.uk

www.learnbymail.com – life experienced degrees, awards and distance learning.

EYE HELP

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? Unique registration and marketing service. Send idea and £10 cheque to 6 N.C. House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1AA.

YOUR VIRTUAL pa: www.farwood.co.uk

SPEECHWRITING by Britain's leading professional, Mitch Murray – see page 30.

HECTIC CAREER? No Time? Contact Liberate365, London's dedicated operations agency. www.liberate365.comfreedom@liberate365.com – 0171 808 7404.

BANKRUPTCY ASSOCIATION – Bankruptcy problems? 01524 64305 – www.theba.org.uk

ACCOMMODATION
ADDRESS
PRIVATE,
DISCREET,
CONFIDENTIAL
mail/message-holding service.
REGENT STREET
0171 580 4242.
email:
hold-everything.com
Established 1979
www.hold-everything.com

CONFIDENTIAL MAILING address – interesting range low-profile privacy related services and products. 0181 556 2979 for brochure.

LIMITED OR PLC COMPANIES, £90. Brochure: FREEPHONE 0800 526421, e-mail: cosun@drink.demon.co.uk

COMPANY SAFETY POLICIES written to your needs – www.workplacesafety.co.uk

BEST ACCOMMODATION address. Absolute Privacy. Mail/Fax/WP – 0171 284 2897.

EYE DETECT

SPECIALIST ANTI-SURVEILLANCE – de-bugging – security reviews – investigations. Total discretion 0181 665 5646; 0956 525712.

LINK
INVESTIGATIONS
Private and
Commercial Investigators
Tracing, Surveillance,
Staff Vetting, Undercover Agents,
Matrimonial, Debugging, etc
Tel: 01306 880707
Fax: 01306 888077
Email:
info@linkinvestigations.co.uk
Web Site:
www.linkinvestigations.co.uk

EYE NEED

PROBABLE LEAGUE winners, football club debts more than doubled by receivers bill. Assets far outstrip debts, but £120K needed by May – email miketurner@argonet.co.uk for details. NatWest 60 15 29 91206219.

RECENTLY DISABLED – my wife working VERY HARD to support us. I want to take her on holiday as thanks but can't now work and have no money. Please help. Yorkshire Bank code: 05-04-54, A/c 16920791 – zig.ur@virgin.net

YOUNG SELF-EMPLOYED designer with Hodgkin's disease, undergoing chemotherapy. Cannot manage debts and bills. S.O.S. Nat-West 60-06-05, 70642257.

INTREPID FEMALE undergraduate seeks funds for CORAL conservation project in Madagascar this summer. Box 0795.

PLEASE HELP buy time. Shattered lady artist alone Granada. £10,000, whatever. Comeback exhibition. Repay – Barclays 20-66-51, 10403512. MANDRAKE. Personal thanks. Box 1195.

AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL repatriation project critically needs modest funding. Pushing boundaries in the Olympic Year – 08- 92-80, 08348816.

REDUNDANT SCHOOLTEACHER requires £9,000 to start boat restoration business. Barclays 20-76-89, 20162078.

EVIL EYE – damned if I don't recoup cost of this ad. Midland 40-17-49, 21059874.

SINGLE MUM – manic depression, jobless, ex-nurse, at university PT – needs help. In debt £30,000. Thank you. Box 1595.

URGENT – HOLIDAY FOOTBALL TOUR, Cornwall, for inner city boys – needs £630. Giro Bank 72-00-00, 62-349-8081.

DESPERATE. Home repossession imminent. Large bills. Please help. Natwest 01-67-14, 01072188.

FUNDS URGENTLY required to give young farming family new start. God Bless. Barclays 20-49-08, 80587281.

MICE ATE SAVINGS under mattress – please help. Will use bank next time. Barclays 20-92-60, 90508799.

THIS IS OUR LAST RESORT. Couple with own business in serious financial trouble. Please help. Halifax 11-02-05, 00057923. Or write Box 1795.

MEDICAL STUDENT, told too old to study here, starts study in Sydney next week. Please help with fees. Natwest 60-05-30, A/c number 64164241.

AMBITIOUS Miss Wittington – poor and frustrated in provinces – needs £2000 "kitty" in order to quit job and move to London and seek fortune. Barclays 20-97-01, 40236829.

NEWSPAPER censorship research student urgently requires £500 for trip to Egypt. Results published. Box 2495.

EYE NEED £3000 to fund my trip to Asia. Anything helps. Most grateful. Midland 40-25-31, 91479903.

ENTREPRENEUR couple with young family require funding property purchase – c£400K. Ideas? Box 2595.

WIDOWER, and young children, redundant, facing serious operation. £10,000 debts, home at risk, desperately need help. Thank you. Nationwide 07-00-30, 62977055.

50 YEAR OLD unable to continue in current profession, needs to clear mortgage (£97,000) to retrain. Cheques to: PO Box 760, Morden, SM4 3QJ. THANKS.

CAMBRIDGE STUDENT needs £8,000 to finish thesis and clear debts. Anything appreciated. Barclays 20-17-19, 10684120. Box 0195.

HELP
FATHER OF FIVE CHILDREN
ages 4-13.
Mother left home November
– made redundant December.
In need of sponsorship.
PLEASE HELP.
Lloyds-TSB
772715, 09989468
or write to
Box 2895.

PLEASE, help me through the labyrinth of this life. Nationwide 07-00-30, 56126744.

THROAT CANCER – husband caring for me and young children. Self-employed incomes lost. HELP! Barclays 20-45-28, 50755389. THANKS.

FEMINAZISM – funds needs to counter effects of this and ALL (gender) discrimination. Newton's first law applies with horrific consequences for all of us and our children. Donations from bigots not welcome. 20-52-69, 90248932.

PATRONAGE SOUGHT. Dynamic traditional Arts/Apprenticeship programme needs £10,000 for lift off. Lloyds TSB 30-96-17, 3535490.

AMBITIOUS TALENTED painter with studio seeks patron. Box 3595.

GENUINE TIME TRAVEL project requires additional funding. Barclays 20-57-40, 80400831.

TEMPORARY UNEMPLOYMENT blip. Please help me pay mortgage £1,000 would be miraculous! Nat-West 56-00-40 / 66588138.

SINGLE MOTHER survived care system, determined against same for daughter – urgently needs topping up. Box 3995.

BELIEVE IN MIRACLES. Follow your heart – copiavita@hotmail.com. Lloyds 30-19-22 0069280.

EYE FINANCE

HATMAKER REQUIRES expansion funding, region £10K. Equity buy back or similar? Box 2695.

EYE ESCAPE

KALKAN, TURKEY, B&B, stunning roof terrace. Brochure and transfer avail – 020 7350 2161.

DREAMY DORSET COTTAGE. Stunning views of Corfe castle – 1 mile to sea. Log fires, leather armchairs, loads of books, sleeps 7. February half-term, Easter and Summer. 01225 332747.

UNDISCOVERED GREECE – idyllic private accommodation. Congenial host. B&B to full board. More info – Tel: 07931 570911.

CORNWALL – 16th century Manor House & Cottages – sleeps 2-10. Close to Beaches, Coarse Fishing, Pets & Pony Rides. Brochure: 01288 341421. email: michael.bucknell @virgin.net

ALONE ON HOLIDAY? Join one of our famous floating house parties in Turkey on a luxurious schooner, with glorious food, water sports and forays ashore. A lazy, sundrenched holiday for discerning travellers. 0171 631 4436 – www.daydreams-travel.com

ITALY – CASA MIA 2000. Save Money – Book Direct with Owners! Private owners advertise quality holiday homes. Colour brochure 01484 686115 – www.casamia.co.uk

S.W.FRANCE – TARN. Charming stone house, pool, t.tennis. Walking, cycling, canoeing – in beautiful wine region. Sleeps 6 0181 788 5073.

EXPLORE WORLDWIDE
200 small group adventures
in over than 96 countries...
Sail a tallship across the Pacific,
discover the Turkish coast
on a traditional gulet,
paddle a dugout canoe
in Botswana's Okavango Delta...
OFFBEAT TOURS IN EUROPE,
MIDDLE
EAST, AFRICA, ASIA, AMERICAS,
AUSTRALASIA.
1-6 weeks
from £365-£2000.
Call 01252 760100 for brochure.
Bonded ATOL/AITO 2595.

GOA WAY – to dream beaches of INDIAHH!!! fr £269 return. 0171 224 7070. ATOL: 5237.

DUTCH BARGE with skipper on European canals, self-catering – bicycles included. 01484 307438. www.holidaysafloat.fsnet.co.uk

COTSWOLD GLIDING CLUB – 5-day holiday courses inclusive of all flying and instruction. Prices from £250. Tel: 01285 760415 for brochure.

HOLIDAY BROCHURES ONLINE. All your holiday brochures from one web-site. Fast, convenient, free. HOLIDAY WIZARD – www.holidaywizard.co.uk

NEW YORK! Friendly hotel alternatives: private B&Bs and apartments. Safe/central. www.westvillagebb.com, tel: (212) 614-3034, mail@westvillagebb.com

EYE FLY

WORLDWIDE LOWEST prices – allegedly! Tel: 01942 603599 / 680268. Fax: 01942 670868. Agents ATOL holders.

FLIGHT OPTIONS – telephone booking service. Tel: 01432 851062, Fax: 01432 850722, HENRY ROGERS, ATOL 3793.

EYE CONTACT

ORIENTAL BEAUTIES – respectable, irresistible, exotic, stunning, seek sincere gentlemen. Free colour brochure. T.P.I. SERVICES 01562 748600 (24 hrs). www.thai-professional.com

DISCREET PENPALS – The safe place for broad minded adults to exchange their secrets! 2x26p stamps to: EPPS, PO Box 36, Dartford, DA2 7ZU.

ATTACHED? Seeking romance? Call David at LOVING LINKS 0171 602 8727. Info line 0906 550 1361 (£1 per/min) or info by fax 09093 919291 (£1 per/min) – www.lovinglinks.co.uk.

'ADULT CHATLINE'
Girls 18+, Women online,
60p/min,
cg, tn21 8xz,
0906 361 1688

VANESSA CAMBRIDGE Introductions. Nationwide introductions agency for the over 50's. Free membership for trial period. Ring 01203 404150.

CONTACT MAG for adults: over 900 photos. APPROVAL copy from: MATCHMAKER, (S.76), Chorley, PR7 4BS. Or ring: 01257 480155 (24 hours).

YOUNG LADIES worldwide seek pen-pals, friends, lifemates. Free details, photos! HERMES, Box 610188/S, 10922 Berlin, Germany. Fax: 0049 30 25299775.

THAI CONNECTIONS – WAIA approved. Over 500 marriages. Free brochure: 01582 481725.

RUSSIAN LADIES seek relationship / marriage. Meet many Russian ladies in Britain. Cheap Moscow trips. Unlimited introductions. Excellent success rate. Phone IFM 01708 478697 – anytime.

FIND YOUR SOULMATE
ON THE WEB
For romance or friendship
via e-mail, visit:
www.TheRightChemistry.com
launch offer:
FREE
VALENTINE MESSAGES!

THAI MARRIAGE consultants. Serious about a Thai wife? For a colour brochure telephone 01372 376876.

HARMONY PARTNERS
The Fastline to
LOVE, HAPPINESS
AND ROMANCE.
0906 752 6299
Calls cost 75p/min
PO Box 20025, London NW2 4ZL
www.harmonypartners.co.uk

BEAUTIFUL THAI LADIES – colour brochure SIAM INTRODUCTIONS (established 13 years) – 01689 860880. www.siam-intro.com

ASIAN PARTNERS. Suman Marriage Bureau, 0181 571 5145 – WWW.CUPID.demon.co.uk

ATTRACTIVE EDUCATED LADIES from U.K. and Overseas are seeking loving friends/partners. Write (Dept PE/9), P.O. Box 4, Goring-on-Thames, RG8 9DN.

BEAUTIFUL RUSSIAN LADIES
Guaranteed Introductions
Exclusive Contacts.
Accompanied Tours
OLGA EDWARDS,
PO Box 56,
Hyde, Cheshire.
0161 355 6841
(24 hrs).

PLUMP PARTNERS – National Dating Agency. If you are plump or prefer a plump partner – ring 01352 715909.

SINGLE
AND DON'T WANT TO BE?
Discerning, professional people join SYNERGY.
Personal introductions and social events
in the north of England.
Freephone CAROL on
0800 7313181.
A.B.I.A. member
www.synergy-intros.co.uk

ADDITIONS – 'ATTACHED' Discreet Loving Agency for married people. 0181 905 3304, 0181 958 [illegible] Established 1992.

THAI ASSOCIATES
100s of
Gorgeous, Educated, Caring, Quality
THAI LADIES
FREE
Colour Brochure
0121 520 8827
100% Visa Success

FREE CONTACT magazine. Local contacts. Weekly adult parties. 01784 246 788 (Ext 817) 24hrs.

YOUNG LADIES worldwide seek pen-pals, friends, lifemates. Free details, photos! HERMES, Box 610188/S, 10922 Berlin, Germany. Fax: 0049 30 25299775.

www.abcdating.co.uk – Anonymous free ads for relationships and contacts.

"HOW TO FIND A PARTNER IN MODERN TIMES"
A brilliant, practical and inspiring book.
Gain the insight and do it!
£6.95 inc. p&p
Cheque to L. Bradley
at
5 Kings Road, Kingston KT1 5JA
tel. 020 8974 5549
Plus
COACHING FROM AN EXPERT
E mail: **lindseybradley@howtofindapartner.co.uk**
www.howtofindapartner.co.uk

HEDONISM PARTIES. Adult Clubnights. Holidays. Attractive, uninhibited, funloving party animals. Couples, singles. S.A.E. Box 24405 London W5 5ZE. 09099 100185 (75p/min) – www.hedonism.org.uk

PRIVATE Accommodation Address facility. Confidential, discreet, affordable, indispensable – 0121 328 2878 (Midlands).

EYE LOVE

SLIM, FAIR, mid-European lady, late 40s – with that certain charm and style – seeks successful, sensitive male to spoil her. Box 4195.

PROFESSIONAL MALE – assertive, fit, presentable, solvent, 50s, seeks an unassertive but wayward lady living within 30 miles radius of Marble Arch. Absolute discretion assured – so be adventurous. Box 0395.

HANDSOME ATTACHED male, 38, seeks similar lady for love and laughter. Box 0695.

CHARMING, WELL-EDUCATED oriental lady (45) without children – seeks a marriage-minded man 41-55 y.o. established, educated. Box 1895.

WIFE'S GONE Burchill-esque. Man 42, attractive, intelligent, seeks female for intellectual / carnal fulfilment. Lancs/Yorks. Box 0895.

HANDSOME, TALL, professional young at heart fortysomething male, recently detached – seeks attractive, 35-45 soulmate with GSOH. South of England! Box 1695.

ASSERTIVE HANDSOME man/40 seeking svelte, younger, erotically unassertive girlfriend – 07050 398943.

LOVER/COMPANION REQUIRED
by successful businessman, 42.
She should be tall,
20-30 years old.
Preference for Hungarians,
Czechs, and Poles –
but not the most important thing.
Envisage a mutual
and beneficial relationship for both.
Everyone answered.
Photo appreciated.
Box 0595.

ASSERTIVE CHALLENGING female sought by intelligent loyal male, forties, for education and exploration. Box 1095.

MISTRESS/LOVER sought by successful 50's guy for weekday dalliance. London. Box 0995.

MIXED RACE MALE doctor – young 45 – enjoys travelling, countryside, relaxing – seeks adventurous, outgoing, intelligent, shapely independent but loyal woman, 30-40 for shared enjoyment, warmth and ...who knows. Box 0295.

DAYTIME FUN. Pleasant attractive, prosperous, attached male, 39, seeks sensual woman for discreet, adult relationship. LONDON. Box 1593.

CHARMING GENTLEMAN, 30s, seeks mature lady for fun and friendship. Box 3195.

CIVILISED, TALL, slim, successful man, 34, Bristol/M4/M5 – seeks an attractive woman for discreet fun. I am bright, considerate, passionate, enjoy the good life and love to spoil and pamper. If you would like some spice in your life please write to me with your telephone number to Box 0293.

NAUGHTY BUT NICE man (50s, tall, thoughtful) seeks Nice but Naughty woman for tender pleasures. Discretion expected and assured. London based. Box 1995.

CIVILISED MAN, 57, in celibate marriage, WLTM for lunch, stylish, petite woman who enjoys wearing stockings and suspenders. London and Southeast. Box 2095.

PROFESSIONAL FEMALE, 29, seeks professional male for fun times and friendship. Photo appreciated. London. Box 2195.

MALE DOCTOR, 54, Indian, slim, attractive, sensual, lives Central London – seeks lively lady, similar age. Box 2295.

SUCCESSFUL, married man, 38, 5'11", athletic build, wltm lady 35+ for good food and wine and afternoon hotel fun. London M40 corridor. Box 2395.

TALL, GOOD-LOOKING, affluent Englishman – adventurous, GSH, N/S, 48, now living Far East, with long term sick wife. Will be back in UK in March – and am looking for a durable, beneficial relationship with a slim, attractive lady, 20-40, with a relaxed discreet attitude. She must have her own life, but occasionally need the all-round-support that I could give her. Single parent welcome. Letter and photo essential. Box 2795.

FIT, 45 YEAR OLD male, married but bored, seeks sensual woman to dine with laugh with and something else with. London/SE. Box 4095.

WARM, SENSITIVE, articulate male – active, young sixties, loosely attached, gsoh – enjoys arts, walking, talking, good food/wine – seeks sensual woman friend/lover for close relationship. South London. Box 3095.

TALL, BLONDE IT professional needs similarly heighty man for old fashioned relationship. Must like cats, pubs and cars. Any appreciation of Discworld and Lynnrd Skynrd a definite plus. Box 2995.

ANGELA, 49, cancerian, slim, quiet, intelligent, enjoys learning German, playing tenor recorder, wltm kind, educated, protective gentleman 50+ for marriage. Box 3295.

YET ANOTHER boring old fart (45) no longer excited by sex with the wife and hoping that there is a one in ten thousand chance that some of these ads work. South Buckinghamshire. Must smoke, drink, not care and not expect any polite conversation. Box 3495.

HANDSOME HIGHLAND LADDIE
GENEROUS, STYLISH, WITTY AND VIRILE,
seeks well bred nymphet
(20-30).
Photo please.
Scotland.
Box 1495.

PROFESSIONAL MALE, 31, tall, attractive, slightly cynical but still incurably romantic, good songwriter, interested classic literature, history, music, wine and candlelight, in search of interesting, attractive woman (23-33, London) who knows her own mind for committed relationship. Photo appreciated. Box 3695.

ATTRATIVE MALE barrister, 42, 6ft, blue eyes, gentle, with GSOH, in celibate marriage – seeks seductive vamp for discreet sensual liaisons. London/S.E. Box 3895.

Private Eye Smalls ❤ ❤ ❤ VALENTINE MESSAGES 2000!

❤*HI C.PIE MY FIANCÉE, can't wait to marry you on October 7th. All my Love. H.Bunny XO*

❤*DUNCAN – Old MacDonald may have had the farm, but you've got the Farmer's wife. xxx*

❤*ULDER – Be my alien sex fiend, LY.*

❤*BUN, of course I love you now & PHIL.*

❤*SAN, will you marry me?*

❤*TALORA, insured your bottom for a million pounds – so will you be my arsentine? Love HORRIBLE.*

❤*Sociable Monogomous Vole Loves His LITTLE MOOSEY.*

❤*Are we there yet Dad? HENRY, are you wearing your hard hat?*

❤*PST, vous avez mon coeur, love P.*

❤*GRANNY GEORGIE – All my love as always. GRANDA*

❤*SHOZZA, Be my Valentine? BAT*

❤*TRACY, love you so much. BOOTHY.*

❤*HONEYBUNCH – Looking forward to installing your software on my hard-drive in Tunisia – Love from MAD OLD FOOL*

❤*CAPITAINE – You live and breathe in me. My wonderous love, I adore you xxx – SOUS-FIFRE*

❤*GONZO THE GREAT – Can I play with your love muscle? Love NUKEKLETTE*

❤*Happy Valentine's Day, Jan! Lots of love, ROBIN*

❤*M – your looks, laughter, touch and taste intoxicate me. I love you, want you, need you. M XXX*

❤*TUFTKIN, My little fave, I lurve you. TUFTUS.*

❤*STUPOT, Happy Valentine's Darling! love EmmaCup (F.B) xxx*

❤*SIMON, Pooh is what you will always be to me (Sweet as hunny), love you to bits Simon and your bits. All my love LEE xxx*

❤*Aston Martins don't impress me much.....but you're lovely! Can I keep you in Brouilly instead? From a Little SCHUBLIG, who loves you very much.*

❤*SHITHEAD, love you to bits.*

❤*HELEN – This is day one. I love you, it's in print so it must be true. CHRIS.*

❤*SUE: "Loves finest speech is without words" – your CURATE JAMES*

❤*To the Mouse in the drawer(s): after 167 days (and having missed the previous 365), the opinionated and demanding pachyderm is always delighted to receive further training.*

❤*Nice taping Dr Kerry!*

❤*CELEB SAYS: We never made it to Lanzarote – how about the South of France?*

❤*MR COLLINS 47 Taege mit dem Muermeltierchen! So much fun, it's los cojones grandes del perro, nicht wahr Schaetze? Ich freue mich an Dich Maercuschen. Heute denke ich an Dich sehr viel, und heute abend gebe ich dir warme Kuchen, weil dir es hunger ist! Pampered Moose*

❤*I LOVE YOU, Deborah Simpson!*

❤*JAMES. Mrs Cook still still loves you.*

❤*JACQUI, Be good to yourself and make this family happy again. Love, Vince*

❤*KARENNIE, la plus jolie des 'Valentine'. Love always – LOLLY.*

❤*Princess Of The Piss Take, Come Spawn With THE FROG PRINCE*

❤*STEPHEN – goodbye from the desert island. CONSTANCE*

❤*WINNIT loves minky woman ever more*

❤*Panticat loves Bummicat. From your Snorty Grunt Piggi. XXXXX*

❤*GOODIE TWO says fruit bun to ML.*

❤*ANGEL – love me forever. BIG BOY*

❤*PIXY – Happy Valentine's Day darling, all my love PIGLET.*

❤*D. Happy Valentine's logs always OD.*

❤*SCARY WOMAN, big hugs from POOH BEAR STOCKER.*

❤*Let's turn our plough share into a WS paradise. Love WINSTON.*

❤*MIMINO – Missing silly you. I send my toes when you is ping.*

❤*MOLLANDRA – You make me shake, inter Stella sparks ain't got nothing on you. You'll rug all mine.*

❤*QUAGGS – you big bad ZEBRA. Love your stripey rump! MR LION.*

❤*I love you Wiz, RATBAG.*

❤*LOVED YOU for a decade – here's to the next. Love WIZ.*

LADIES! This (leap) year only! NEXT ISSUE: 'EYE PROPOSE' column. Send yours today!

£1 The Complete Kama Sutra
translated by Alain Daniélou
The world's oldest and most famous guide to the pleasures, techniques and etiquette of sex.

Sexually explicit

Hardback Price £29.95 **27020**

£1 Philip's Atlas of World History
With colour maps, photographs, illustrations and an expertly-written commentary, this authoritative and wide-ranging atlas gives a brilliant at-a-glance look at the world over the last three millennia.

Hardback Price £40.00 **14111**

£1 The New York Public Library Science Desk Reference
A huge science reference book which covers the whole field of science from the Periodic Table to the human body, supplemented by 350 charts and illustrations.

Hardback Price £30.00 **10745**

£1 Leith's Cookery Bible
by Prue Leith and Caroline Waldegrave
This huge, illustrated kitchen reference book includes 1,400 recipes ranging from simple sauces to classic cuisine. It is the one cookery book you really need in your kitchen.

Hardback Price £25.00 **16190**

£1 Simpsons Forever
Simpsons' creator Matt Groening continues his episode-by-episode guide to the celebrated cartoon series. Includes the Simpsons' musical moments and many secret jokes you may have missed.

Paperback Price £9.99 **14446**

£1 The Oxford World Encyclopedia
This new encyclopedia from Oxford covers all aspects of human knowledge and boasts 20,000 entries, making it ideal for home, school or the office.

Paperback Price £12.99 **11542**

£1 Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus
by John Gray
The bestselling guide to achieving fulfilling relationships and great sex by understanding and overcoming the problems which occur most commonly between men and women.

Paperback Price £9.99 **51185**

£1 Mathematics: From the Birth of Numbers
by Jan Gullberg
A massive book in which Jan Gullberg takes the reader on a fascinating tour of mathematics, from the dual inventions of numbers and language to arithmetic, algebra, geometry and calculus.

Hardback Price £34.00 **11035**

£1 New Fontana Dictionary of Modern Thought
Encompassing politics, economics, the sciences, arts, philosophy, law, medicine and sociology, this updated, classic reference work, provides comprehensive information on modern thought.

Hardback Price £29.99 **13865**

£1 An Underground Education
by Richard Zacks
Bizarre facts, freakish photos and some of the most unusual stories you will ever read – and they're all true!

Sexually explicit
TSP Exclusive.
Club Price £10.99 **15012**

£1 Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable - Millennium Edition
by Adrian Room
Uncover the meaning and origin of thousands of words, sayings and fables - from "raining cats and dogs" to The Tortoise and the Hare.

Hardback Price £25.00 **14363**

£1 Roget's Thesaurus
This is the ultimate thesaurus containing hundreds of headwords and their synonyms and antonyms. This first new edition for 10 years, includes thousands of new words and phrases reflecting contemporary culture.

Hardback Price £15.99 **11834**

£1 Cassell Dictionary of Classical Mythology
by Jenny March
This authoritative and fully illustrated reference book provides comprehensive coverage of the rich and diverse traditions of Greek and Roman mythology.

Hardback Price £25.00 **12255**

3 books. £3. No Commitment... Fact or Fiction?

£1 The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations: Revised Edition
edited by Angela Partington
Find the perfect quotation for every occasion with over 17,000 quotes by 2,500 people throughout history.

Hardback Price £25.00 **11**

£1 Philip's Atlas of the Universe 3rd Edition
The latest edition of this beautifully illustrated guide to our solar system, compiled by Patrick Moore, is the perfect companion for both experienced astronomers and beginners.

Hardback Price £24.99 **13816**

£1 Office 2000 for Busy People
From Word, Excel, and Powerpoint to Access, Publisher and Internet Explorer 5, get to grips with the new version of the world's most popular operating system with this hands-on, user-friendly manual.

Paperback Price £13.95

£1 The Slave Trade
by Hugh Thomas
Thomas's massive and highly acclaimed new book looks at the trade in human beings between Africa and the Americas, from the earliest sea voyages to the campaign for the abolition of slavery.

Hardback Price £25.00 **11131**

£1 AA Big Road Atlas 2000
The clear, accurate mapping and bang-up-to-date information will get you where you want to go quickly and with a minimum of fuss. Includes 78 town plans, 8,000 places of interest and the top 50 millennium sites.

Paperback Price £9.99 **13936**

£1 The Cassell Dictionary of Anecdotes
For anyone called upon to sparkle at short notice - a richly entertaining collection of over 1,000 anecdotes, arranged under headings as diverse as Absent-mindedness, Heckling, Resignations and Windbags.

Paperback Price £12.99 **14962**

£1 The Illustrated Longitude *by Dava Sobel and William J.H. Andrewes*
A spectacularly illustrated edition of the bestselling title, which recreates the story of the 18th century clockmaker John Harrison in his pursuit of the accurate measurement of longitude.

Hardback Price £25.00 **12068**

£1 First World War
by John Keegan
Military historian John Keegan describes the battles on land, sea and in the air in this magisterial account of the Great War. Whilst also exploring how the war acted as an engine for social change throughout the world.

Hardback Price £25.00 **12332**

£1 The Art of Sexual Ecstasy
by Margo Anand
Explores the sacred love-making techniques of the far East that can immeasurably extend our sensual experiences.

Sexually explicit
Hardback Price £17.99 **11010**

£1 Oxford Companion to Philosophy
edited by Ted Honderic
This massive reference book covers the whole range of philosophy from ancient times to the present day. Nearly two thousand entries explain and elucidate key areas of the history of ideas.

Hardback Price £25.00 **38270**

£1 History Of London
by Stephen Inwood
A marvellously evocative account of London's development, from its settlement by the Romans to the political, cultural and social events of the last thirty years.

Hardback Price £30.00 **11**

£1 Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela
by Nelson Mandela
"I shall fight the Government side by side with you, inch by inch and mile by mile, until victory is won...The struggle is my life."

Paperback Price £9.99 **32030**

£1 The Cassell Guide to Common Errors in English *by Harry Blamires*
When should you use 'fewer' and when 'less'? How acceptable is it to split an infinitive? This authoritative guide answers all your questions.

Hardback Price £16.99 **11125**

£1 The Oxford Dictionary of Humorous Quotations
edited by Ned Sherrin
Ned Sherrin presents 5,000 of his favourite witticisms, organised around major themes such as Actors and Acting, Death, Insults and Sex.

Hardback Price £15.95 **34470**

£1 Halliwell's Film & Video Guide 2000
edited by John Walker
A fully revised and updated edition of the filmgoer's bible covering over 23,000 films and their stars, directors and producers. Includes a guide to family viewing suitability and video availability.

Paperback Price £19.99 **14267**

£1 The 10-Day MBA
by Steven Silbiger
How to grasp the fundamentals of the MBA without years of study or thousands of pounds in tuition fees.

Paperback Price £15.99 **33350**

£1 Tracing your Ancestors in the Public Record Office
This exhaustive and meticulously researched reference book is an essential companion for anyone wishing to learn more about their family history.

Paperback Price £12.99 **1293**

£1 Disgrace *by J.M. Coetzee*
A 52-year-old professor seeks refuge on his daughter's farm after impulsively seducing a student. A post-apartheid novel, Disgrace is a marvellous depiction of life in modern South Africa.

BOOKER PRIZE WINNER 1999
Hardback Price £14.99 **15213**

£1 Cassell Dictionary of Slang
edited by Jonathon Green
An exhaustive guide to some four centuries of slang, from its early roots in the world of Elizabethan beggars and thieves to the rich and constantly evolving language of today.

Hardback Price £25.00 **12513**

£1 Philip's Concise World Atlas 9th Edition
A renowned Atlas featuring over 100 full-colour, digitally-produced maps, full of up-to-date information about the world we live in.

Hardback Price £19.99 **13815**

£1 Rapid Maths Tricks and Tips: 30 Days to Number Power
by Edward H. Julius
Improve your mental arithmetic beyond all recognition with 60 easy-to-learn tricks, over 2,000 practice problems and step-by-step examples.

TSP Exclusive. Club Price £7.99 **51268**

£1 The Nature of Space and Time
by Stephen Hawking and Roger Penrose
Our two foremost theoretical physicists debate the possibility of formulating a single quantum theory of gravity.

Hardback Price £16.95 **10464**

£1 Chamber's Dictionary
The most authoritative dictionary available, this brand new edition includes over 215,000 references and 300,000 definitions and thousands of new entries. It is the choice of most professional writers and academics.

Hardback Price £30.00

£1 From Pitch to Publication and **Becoming a Writer**
From gaining the inspiration to seeking out publishers and negotiating a contract, here's how to pursue your vocation as a writer, through to publication and beyond.

Two books count as one choice
Paperback Price £24.98 **41517**

£1 Think Like A Genius
by Todd Siler
In a series of easy steps, this inspiring book will show you how to banish indecision, break out of the mental ruts that block your path and discover, or recover, the passion that inspires genius.

Hardback Price £16.99 **11171**

THE TRUTH ABOUT TSP!

- You choose 3 books listed here for only £1 each (+p&p) on 10 days home approval!
- TSP softback books have quality soft covers and are exactly the same as the original hardback edition in every detail – except for the price!
- We guarantee you will be given the pick of over titles in our free Preview magazine – plus the best literary merit or special interest and offbeat titles, signals and surprises.
- You do not have to buy any more books, ever.

The Softback Preview, PO Box 415, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB11 1DZ.

TSP Exclusives: These editions are not available anywhere else in the UK in any format.

The Softback Preview

SEND NO MONEY NOW. PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO:
THE SOFTBACK PREVIEW, FREEPOST, UXBRIDGE, MIDDLESEX UB11 1BR.

10 Days Home Trial **YES!** Please send me the three books I have selected below at the introductory offer price of only £3, plus a total of £3.95 p&p. If I decide to keep the books I understand you will send me the monthly Preview magazine FREE for a minimum of 6 issues. Each Preview will feature a Recommended Title. I am under no obligation to take the Recommended Title at any time and if I do not wish to receive it I need simply say so on the form provided. In fact, I am under no obligation to buy another book...ever. I am over 18 years of age.

PLEASE INDICATE BY NUMBER YOUR 3 CHOICES

ADD TO YOUR IMMEDIATE SAVINGS, Choose an optional 4th book for only £4.99 with no additional postage costs.

PLUS Now you can also order an optional 5th book at the same special price of only £4.99, still with no additional postage

From time to time we may make our mailing list available to carefully chosen companies whose products or services might interest you. Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive such offers ☐

(Block Letters Please)

Name Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss _____

Address _____

_____

_____

_____ Postcode _____

Do you own a telephone? YES ☐ NO ☐

Have you ever bought anything by mail in the past? YES ☐ NO ☐

How have you paid for your mail-order purchases? (tick all that apply)
CASH ☐ CREDIT CARD ☐ CHEQUE ☐ POSTAL ORDER ☐

All orders subject to approval.
TSP membership is limited to one per household. Offer valid in UK only.

PE27

Published by Pressdram Ltd, 6 Carlisle St, London W1 5RG. 0171 437 4017. Printed by East End Offset Ltd, Empson St, London E3 3LT. Distributed by P. E. Distribution Ltd, Mortimer Hse, 230/236 Lavender Hill, SW11. U.P. 0171 223 9

9 770032 888051 06>